VOL 2: FALLEN LEGACY

LONDON - CAMELO - TEKINO - ZAPATA

BATTLECATS®

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VOLUME TWO: FALLEN LEGACY

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*"To Laura, the girl who changed my life.
And to my family, thank you for supporting
the madness."*

- MARK LONDON

*"To Even, my motivation. To Mayra, for always
supporting my crazy ideas. And to all the people
who have helped me become a better artist."*

- MICHAEL CAMELO

*"I dedicate this to my mother and sister for
supporting me from the beginning."*

- TEKINO

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MAD COMICS. MAD VARIETY. MAD FUN.

TRIALS

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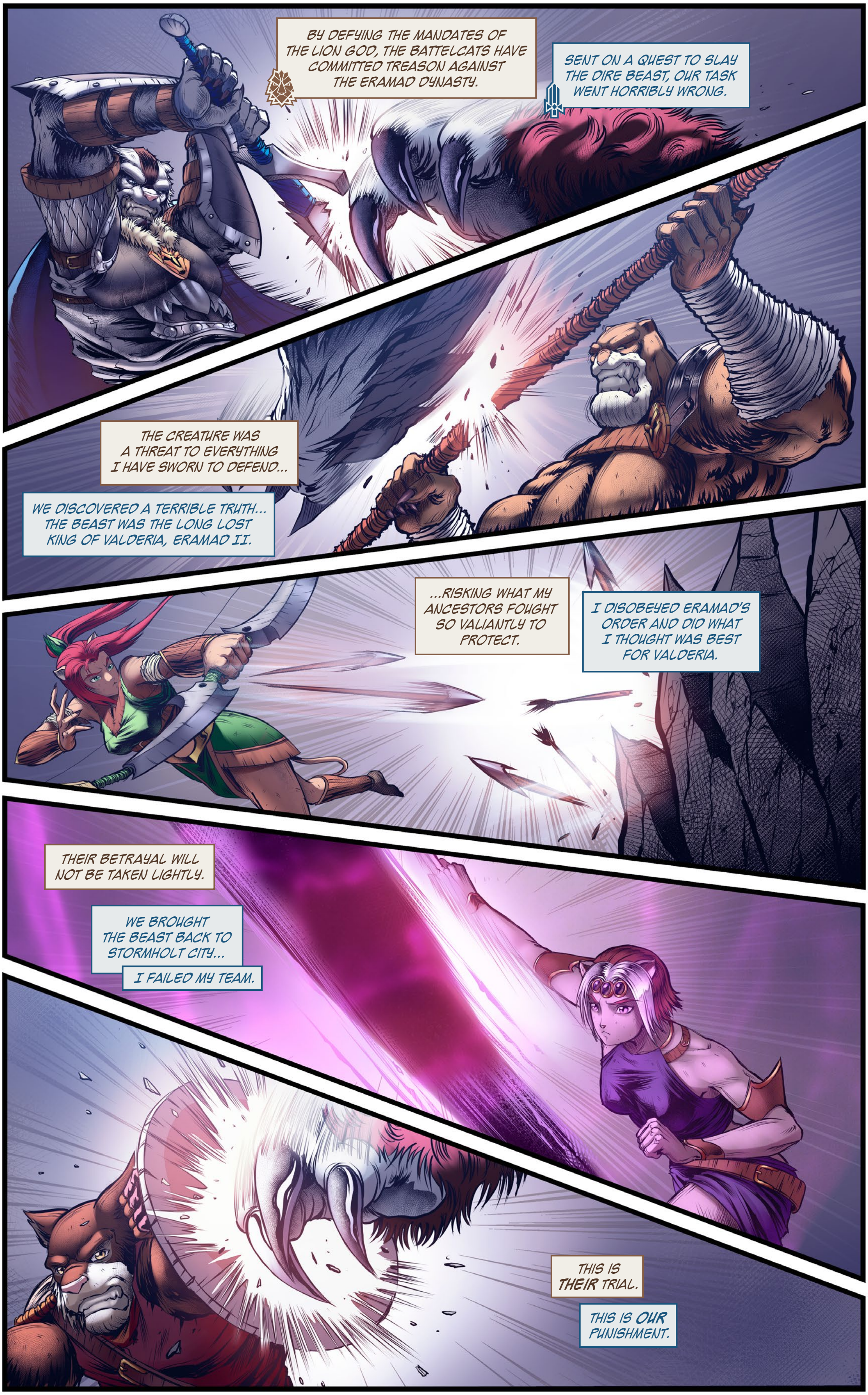
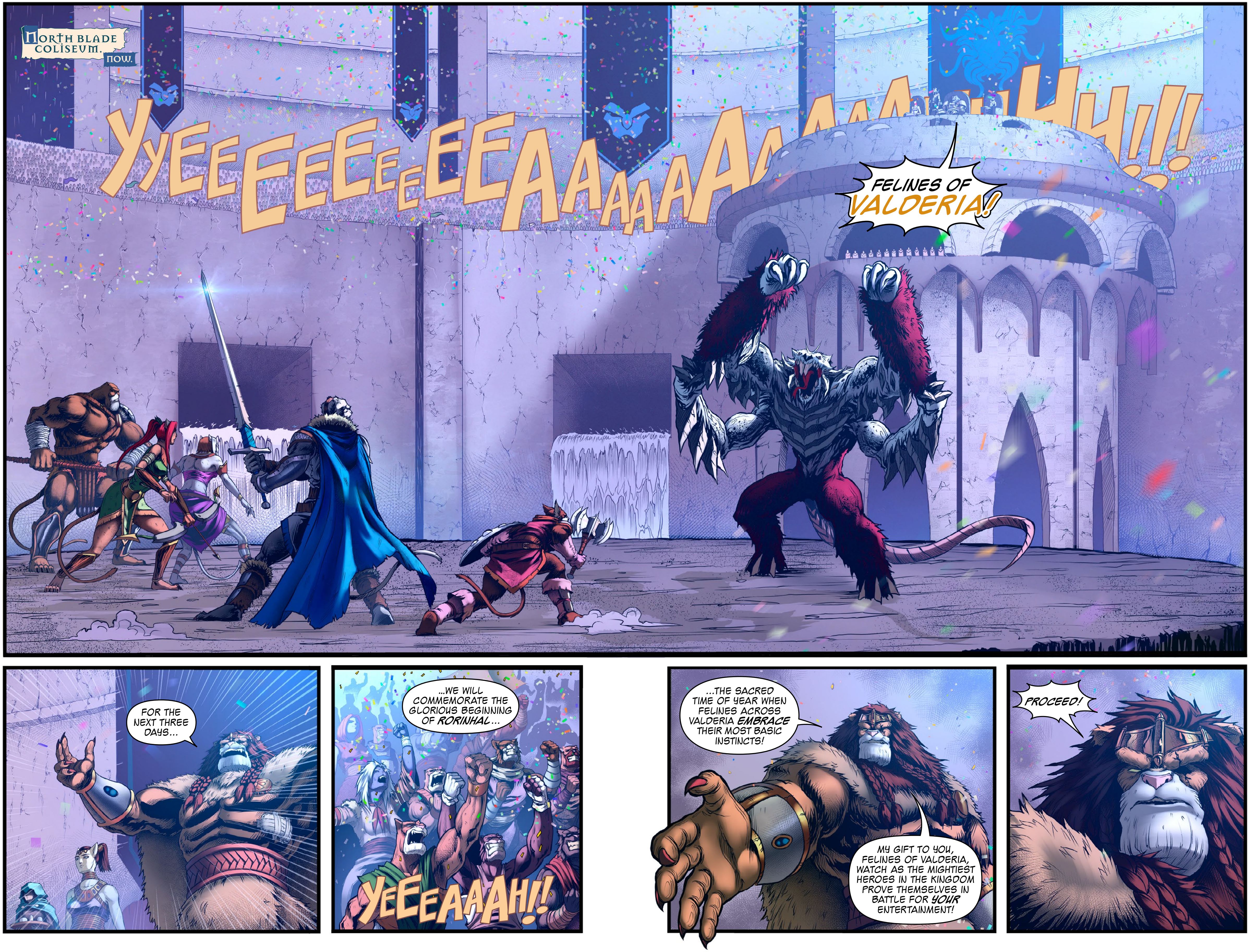
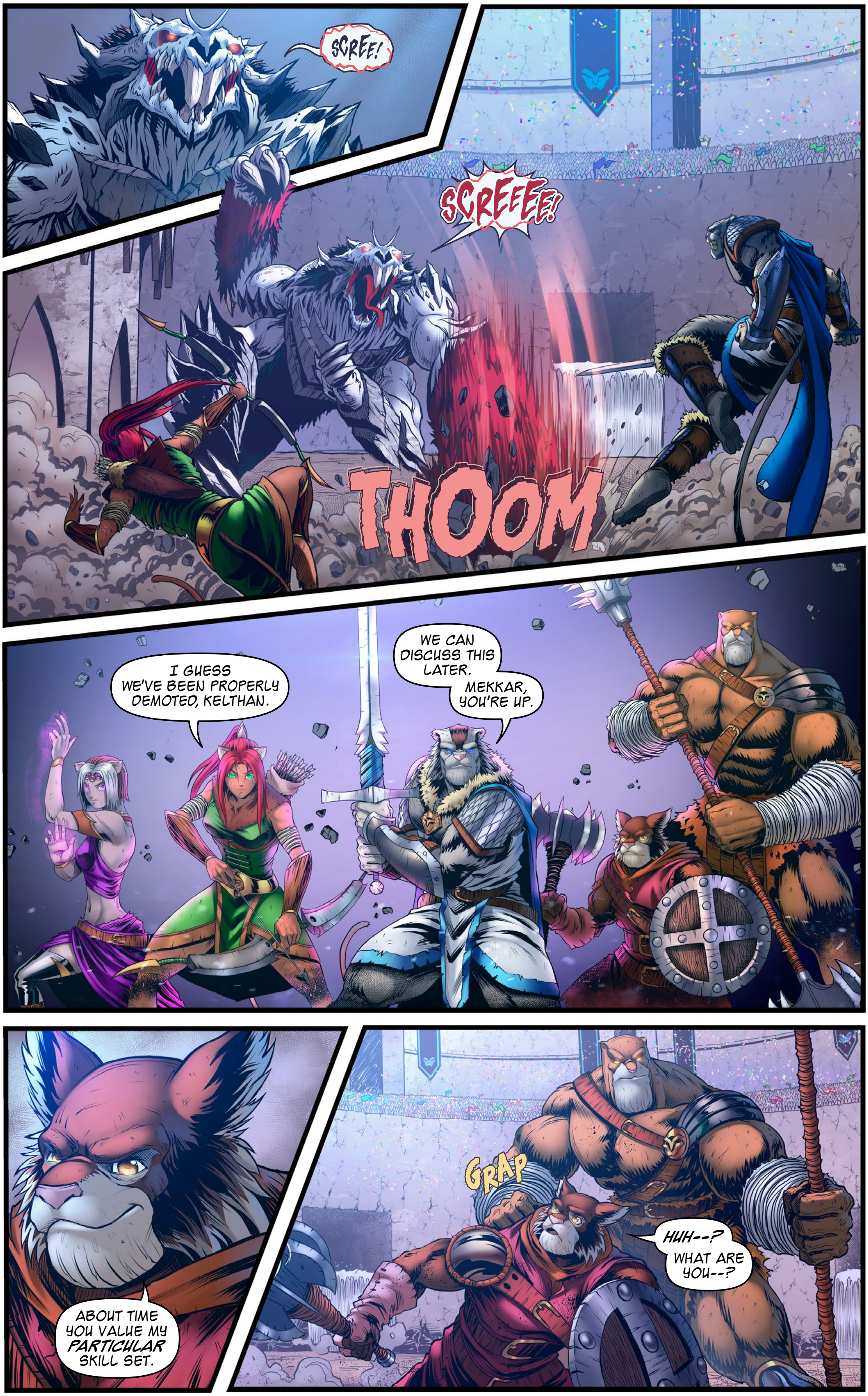
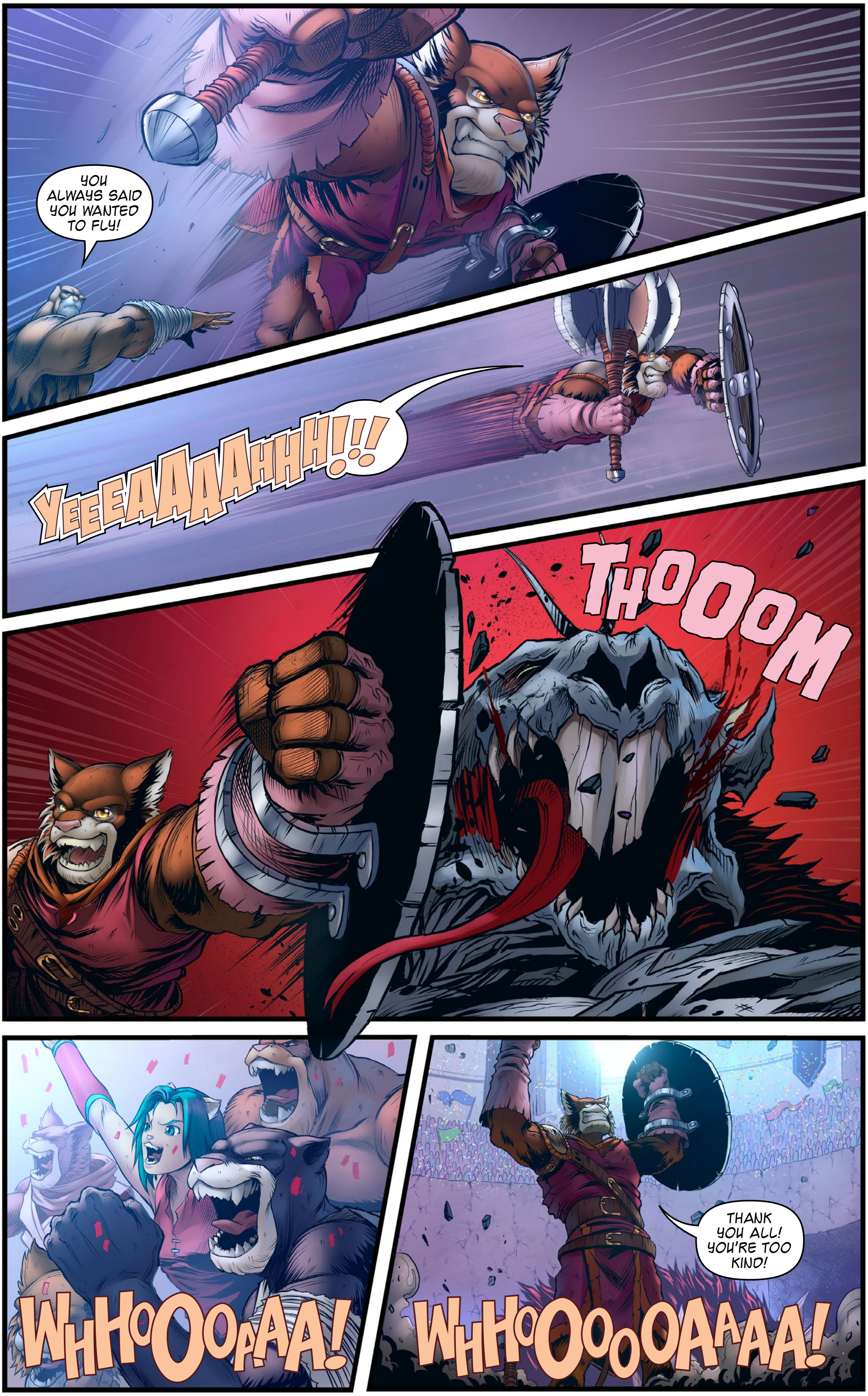
Chapter One

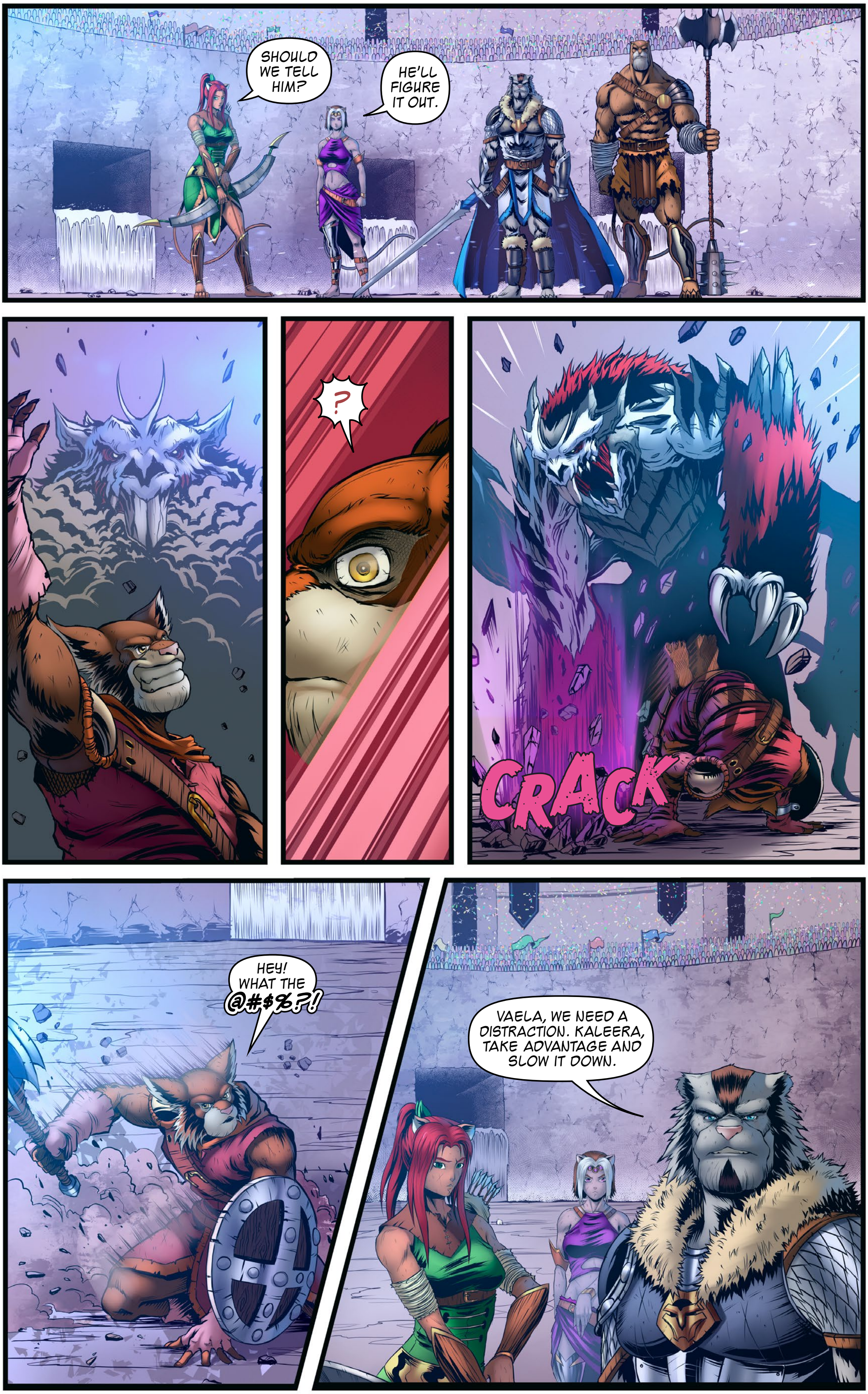
MiKE
Tekino

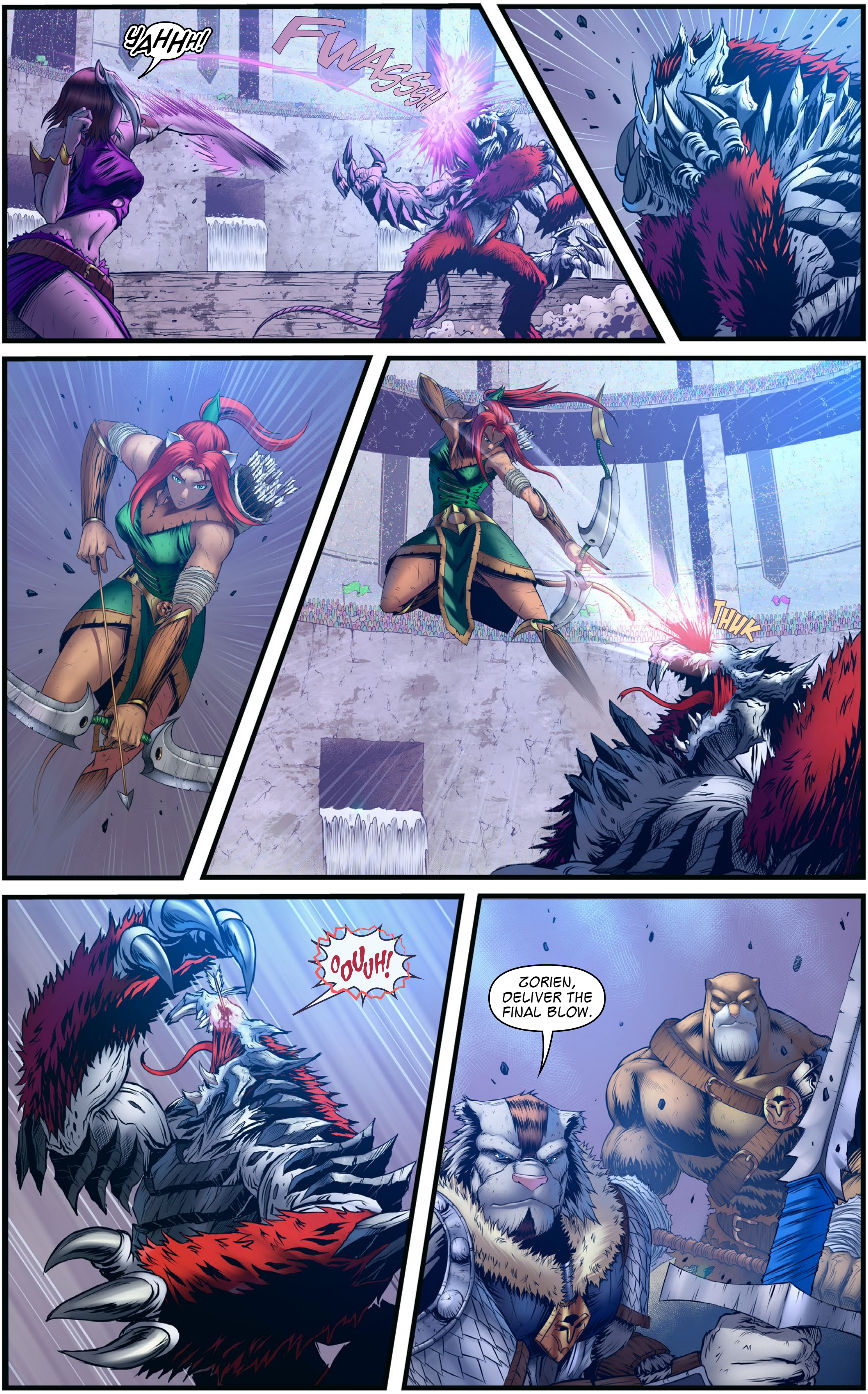

BY DEFYING THE MANDATES OF THE LION GOD, THE BATTELCATS HAVE COMMITTED TREASON AGAINST THE ERAMAD DYNASTY.
SENT ON A QUEST TO SLAY THE DIRE BEAST, OUR TASK WENT HORRIBLY WRONG.
THE CREATURE WAS A THREAT TO EVERYTHING I HAVE SWORN TO DEFEND...
WE DISCOVERED A TERRIBLE TRUTH... THE BEAST WAS THE LONG LOST KING OF VALDERIA, ERAMAD II.
...RISKING WHAT MY ANCESTORS FOUGHT SO VALIANTLY TO PROTECT.
I DISOBEYED ERAMAD'S ORDER AND DID WHAT I THOUGHT WAS BEST FOR VALDERIA.
THEIR BETRAYAL WILL NOT BE TAKEN LIGHTLY.
WE BROUGHT THE BEAST BACK TO STORMHOLT CITY...
I FAILED MY TEAM.
THIS IS **THEIR** TRIAL.
THIS IS **OUR** PUNISHMENT.

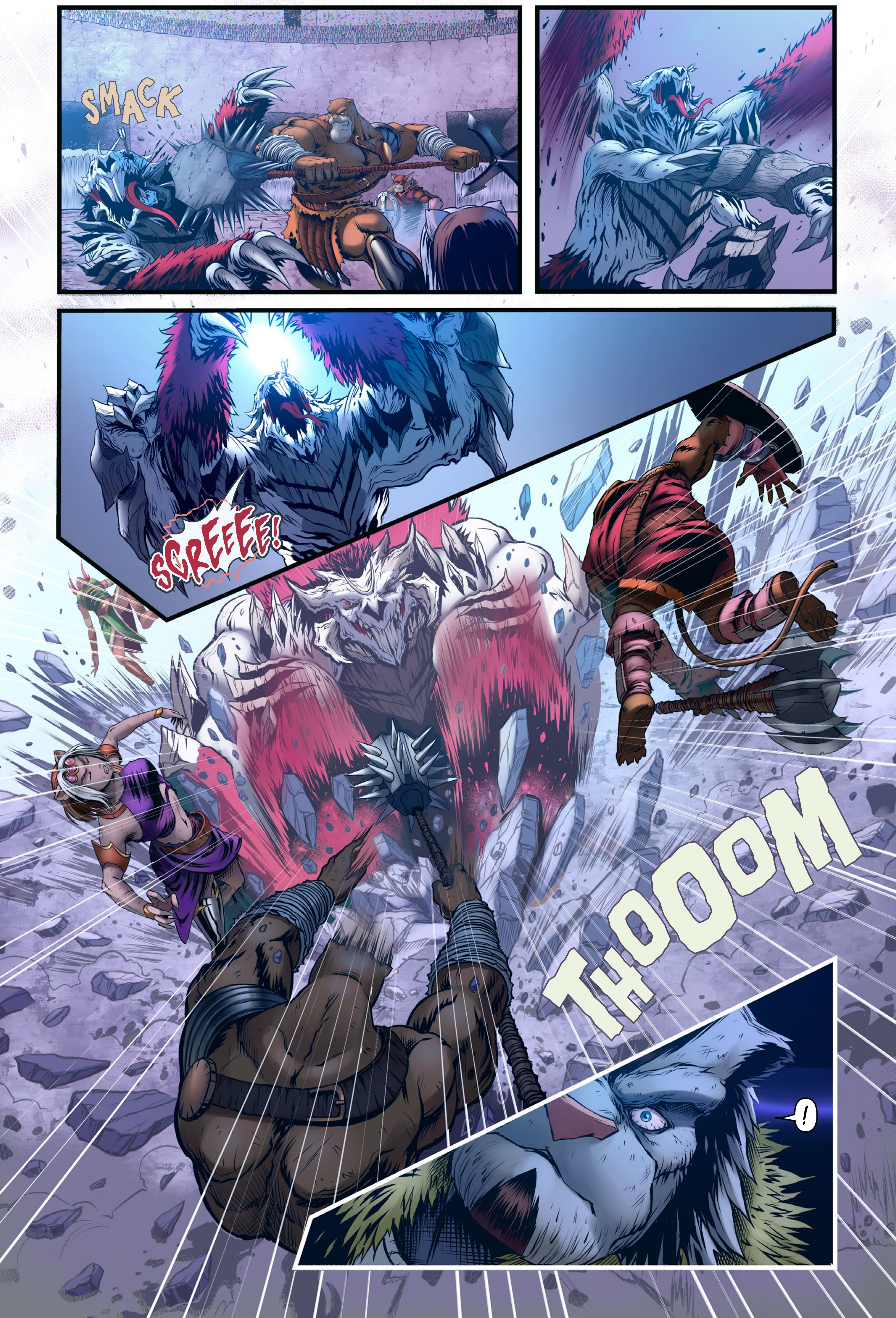

NORTH BLADE COLISEUM.
NOW.
YYEEEEEEEEEAAAAAAAAAAAAHHH!!!
FELINES OF VALDERIA!
FOR THE NEXT THREE DAYS...
...WE WILL COMMEMORATE THE GLORIOUS BEGINNING OF *RORINHAL*...
YEEEAAAH!!
...THE SACRED TIME OF YEAR WHEN FELINES ACROSS VALDERIA *EMBRACE* THEIR MOST BASIC INSTINCTS!
MY GIFT TO YOU, FELINES OF VALDERIA, WATCH AS THE MIGHTIEST HEROES IN THE KINGDOM PROVE THEMSELVES IN BATTLE FOR *YOUR* ENTERTAINMENT!
PROCEED!

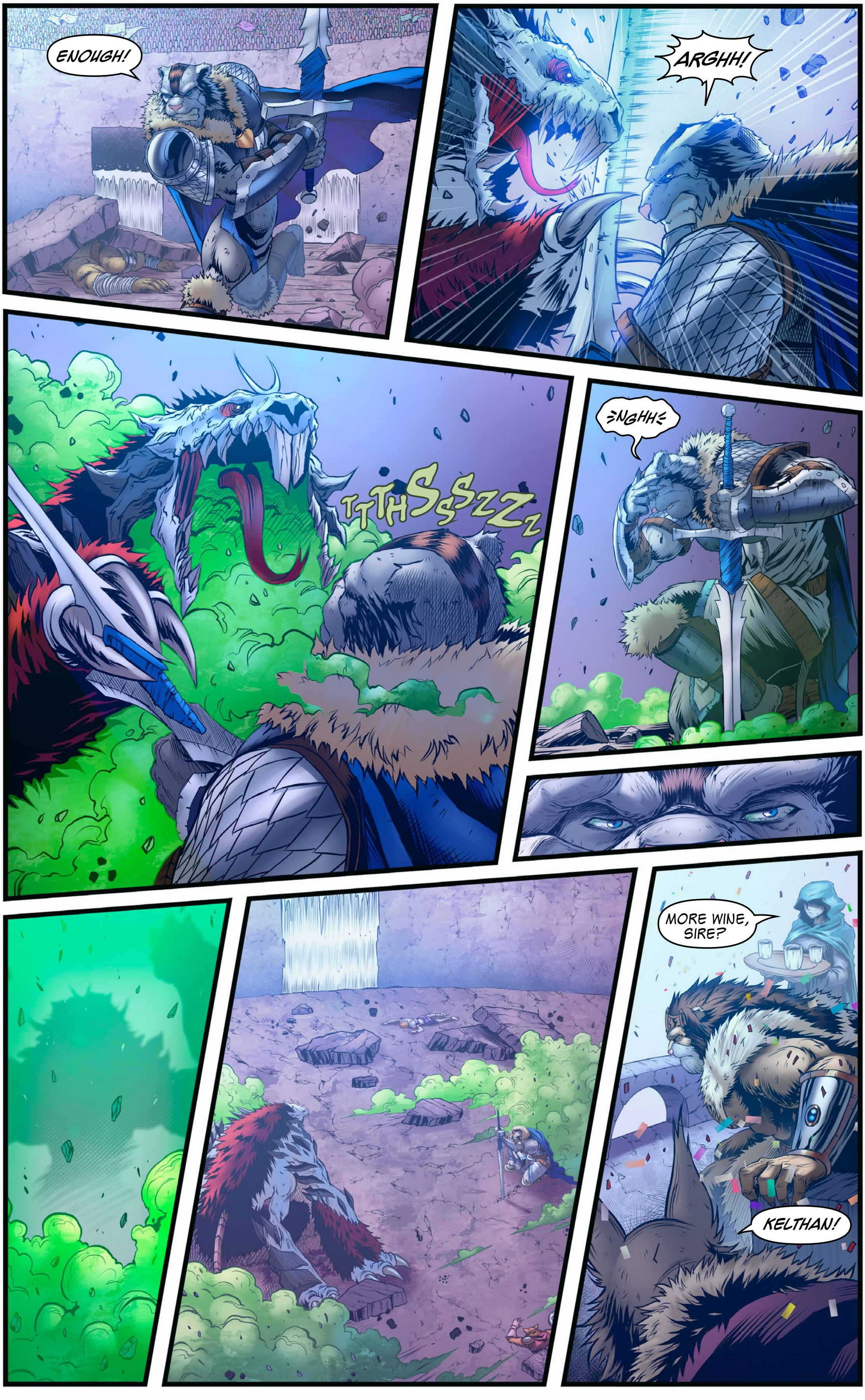

SCREE!
SCREEEE!
THOOM
I GUESS WE'VE BEEN PROPERLY DEMOTED, KELTHAN.
WE CAN DISCUSS THIS LATER.
MEKKAR, YOU'RE UP.
ABOUT TIME YOU VALUE MY *PARTICULAR* SKILL SET.
GRAP
HUH--?
WHAT ARE YOU--?

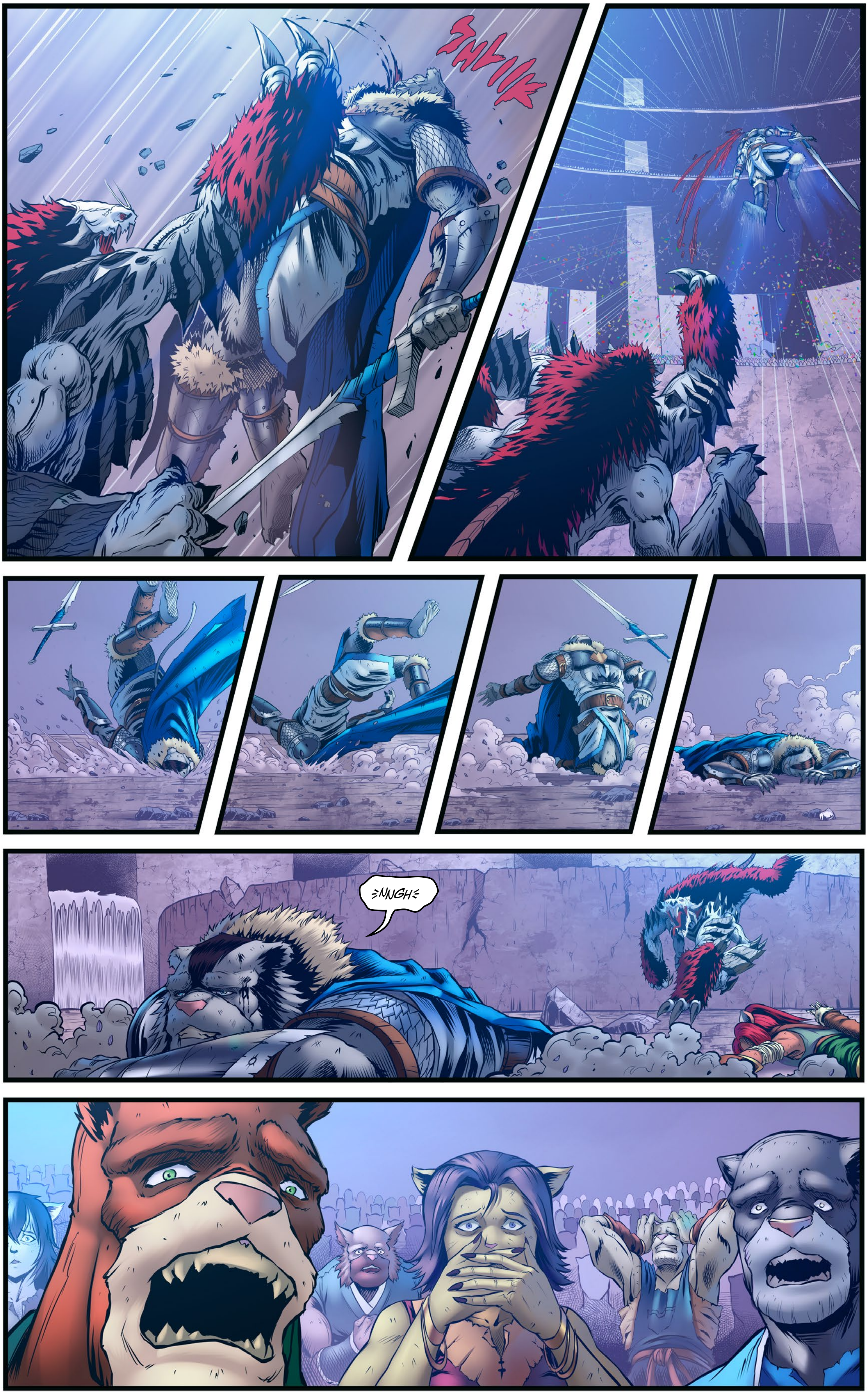

YOU ALWAYS SAID YOU WANTED TO FLY!
YEEEAAAAHHH!!!
THOOOM
WHHOOOAAA!
WHHOOOOOAAAA!
THANK YOU ALL! YOU'RE TOO KIND!

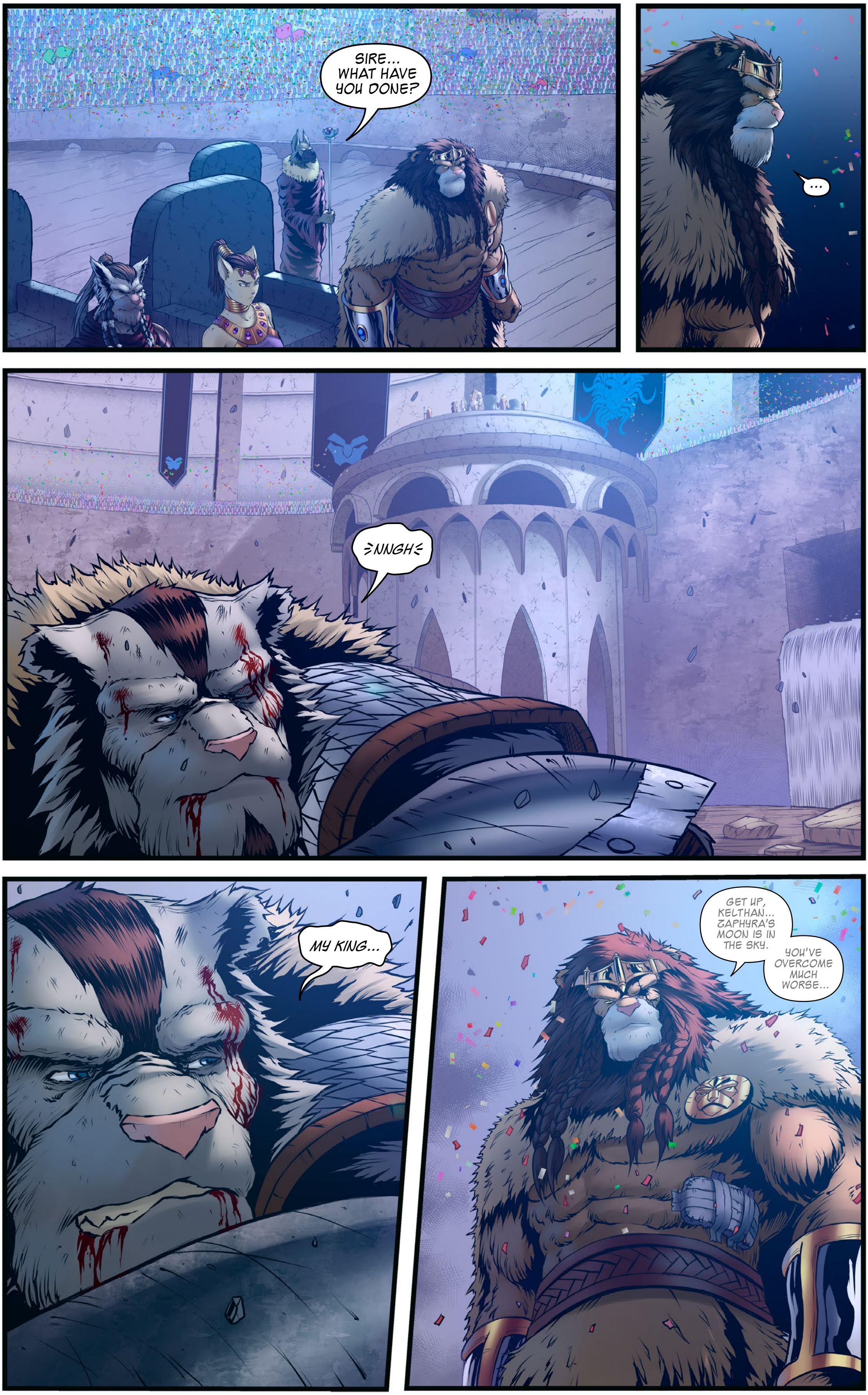

SHOULD WE TELL HIM?
HE'LL FIGURE IT OUT.
?
CRACK
HEY! WHAT THE @#$%?!
VAELA, WE NEED A DISTRACTION. KALEERA, TAKE ADVANTAGE AND SLOW IT DOWN.

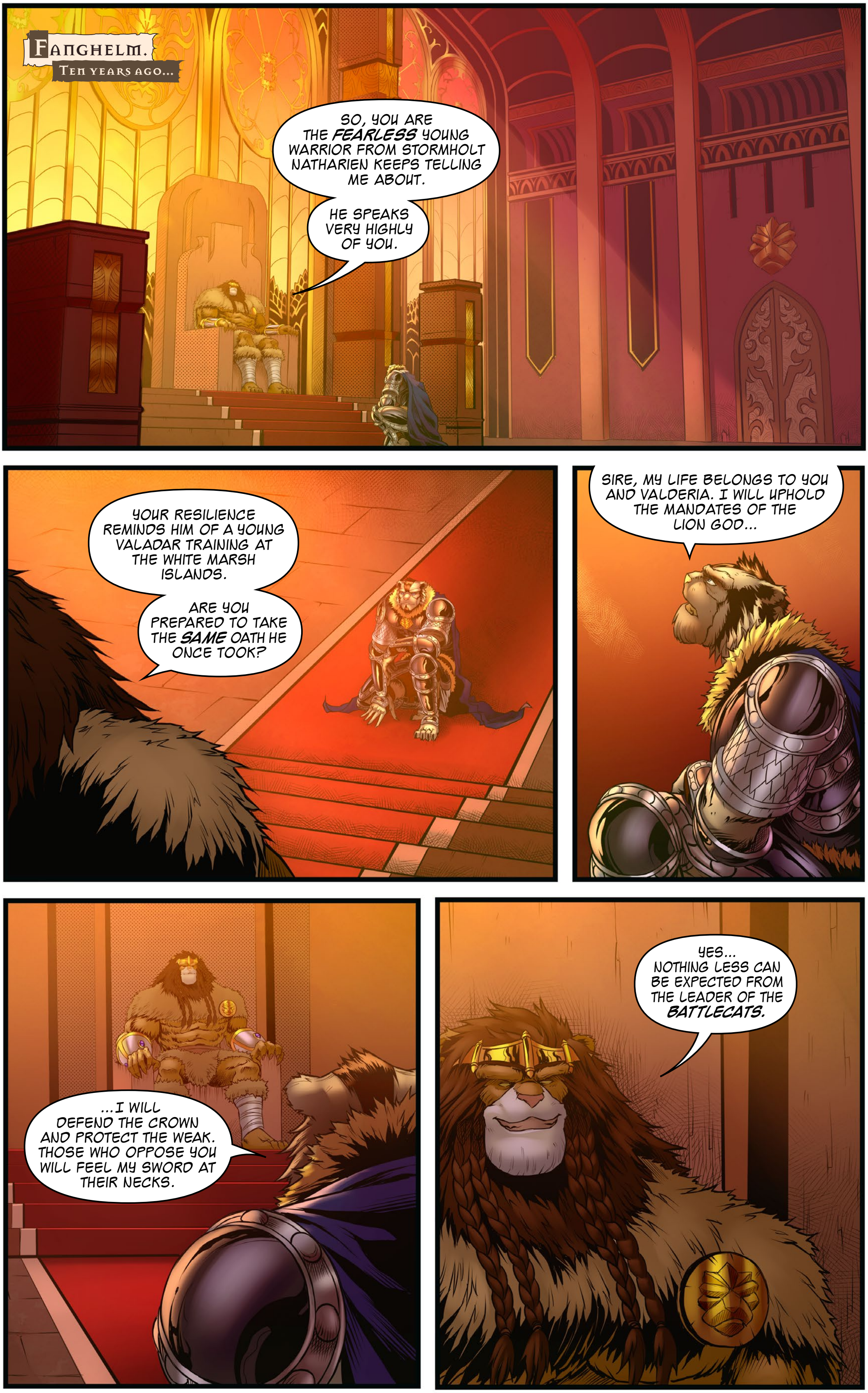

YAHHH!
FWASSSH
THUK
OOUUH!
ZORIEN, DELIVER THE FINAL BLOW.

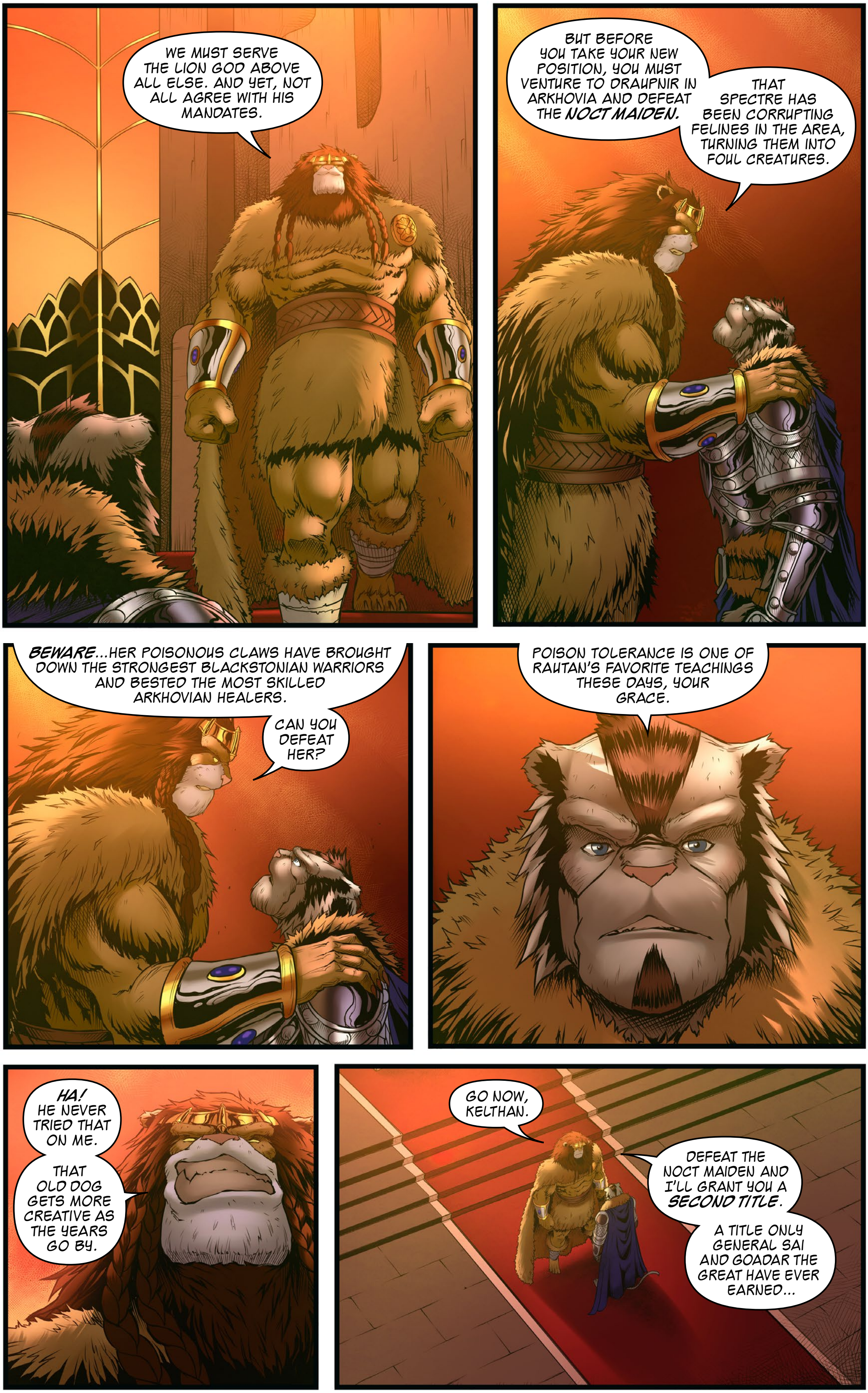

SMACK
SCREEEE!
THOOOM
!

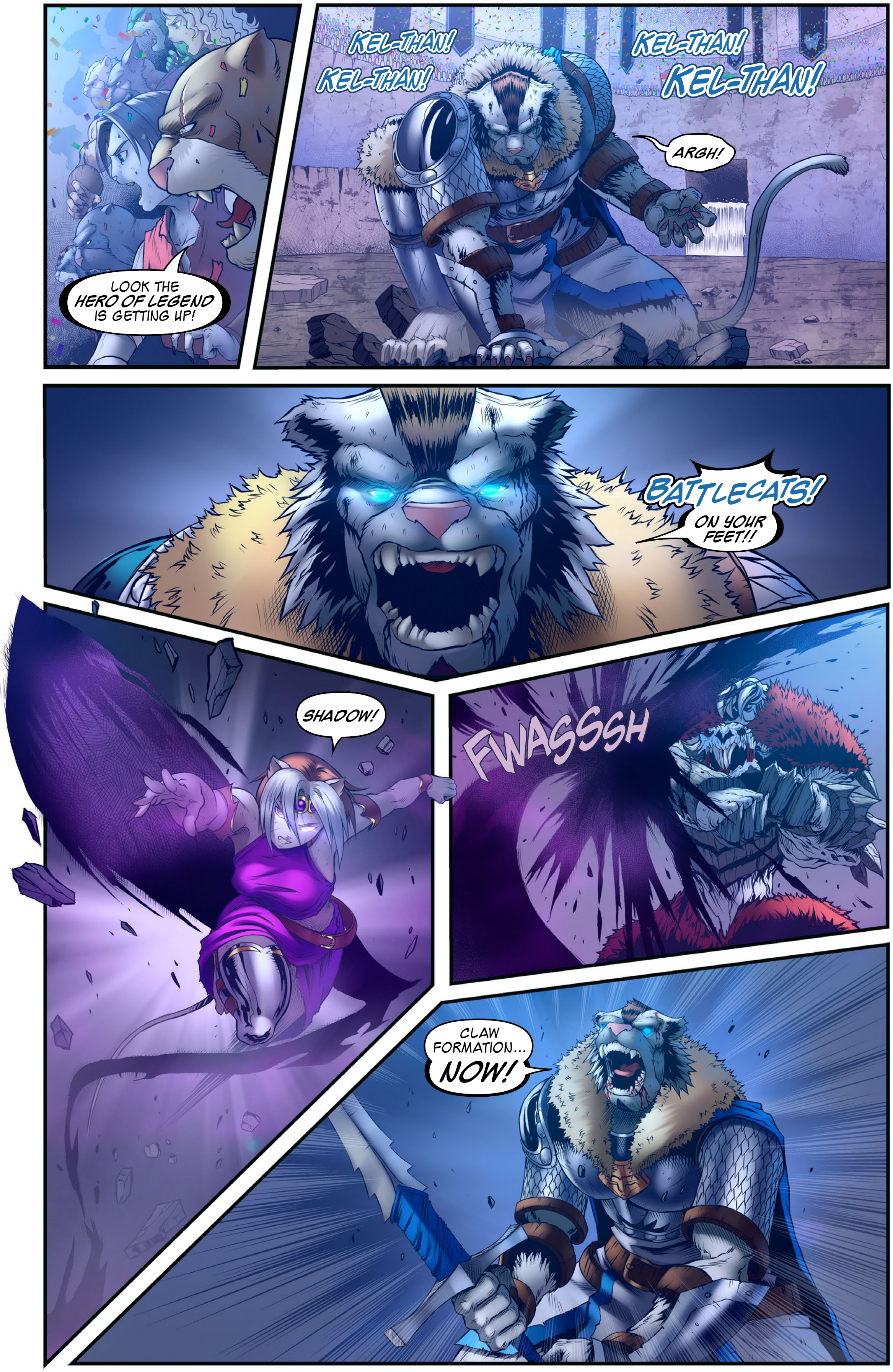

ENOUGH!
ARGHH!
TTTHSSSZZZZ
=NGHH=
MORE WINE, SIRE?
KELTHAN!

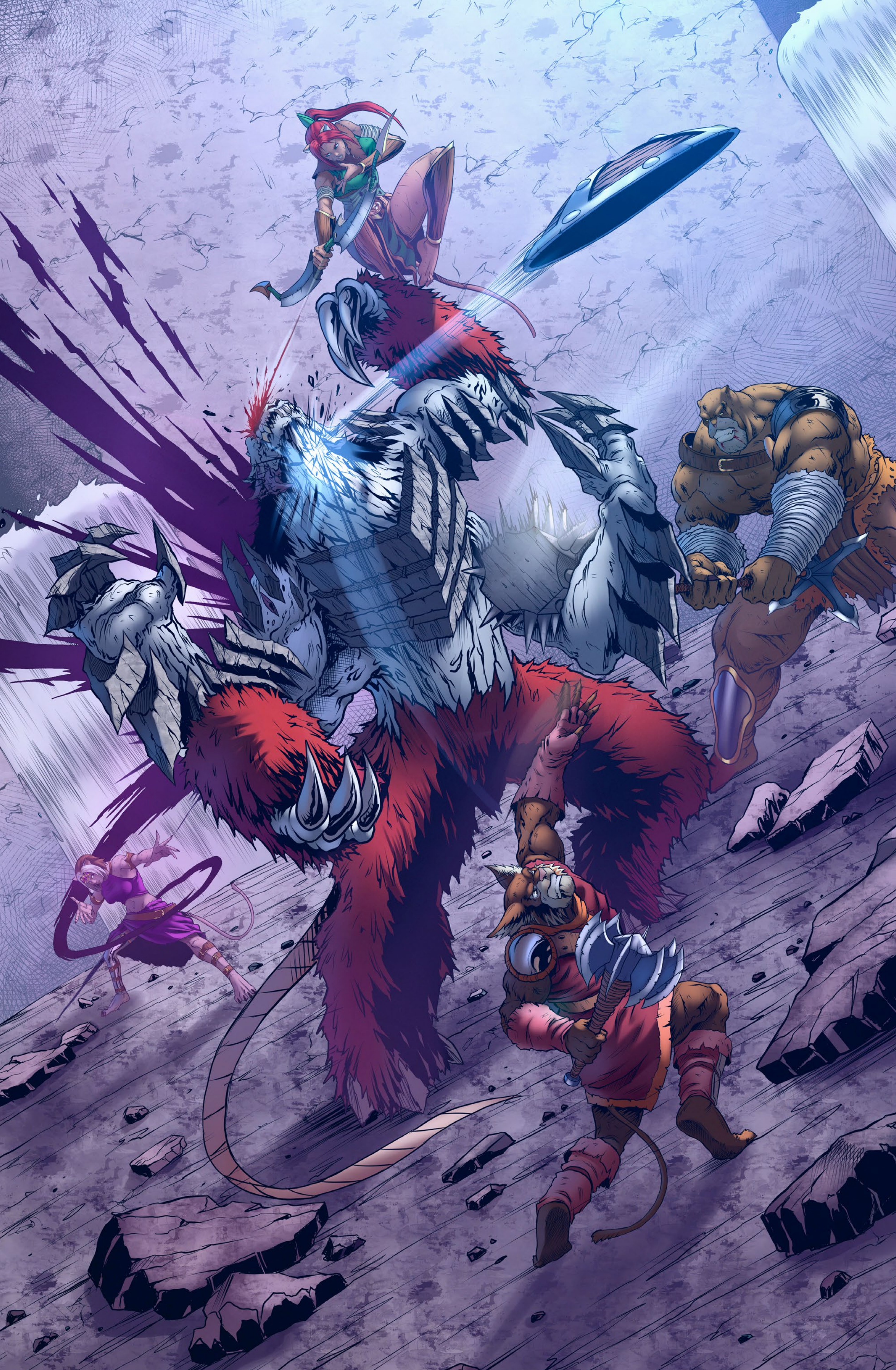

SHLIK
NNGH

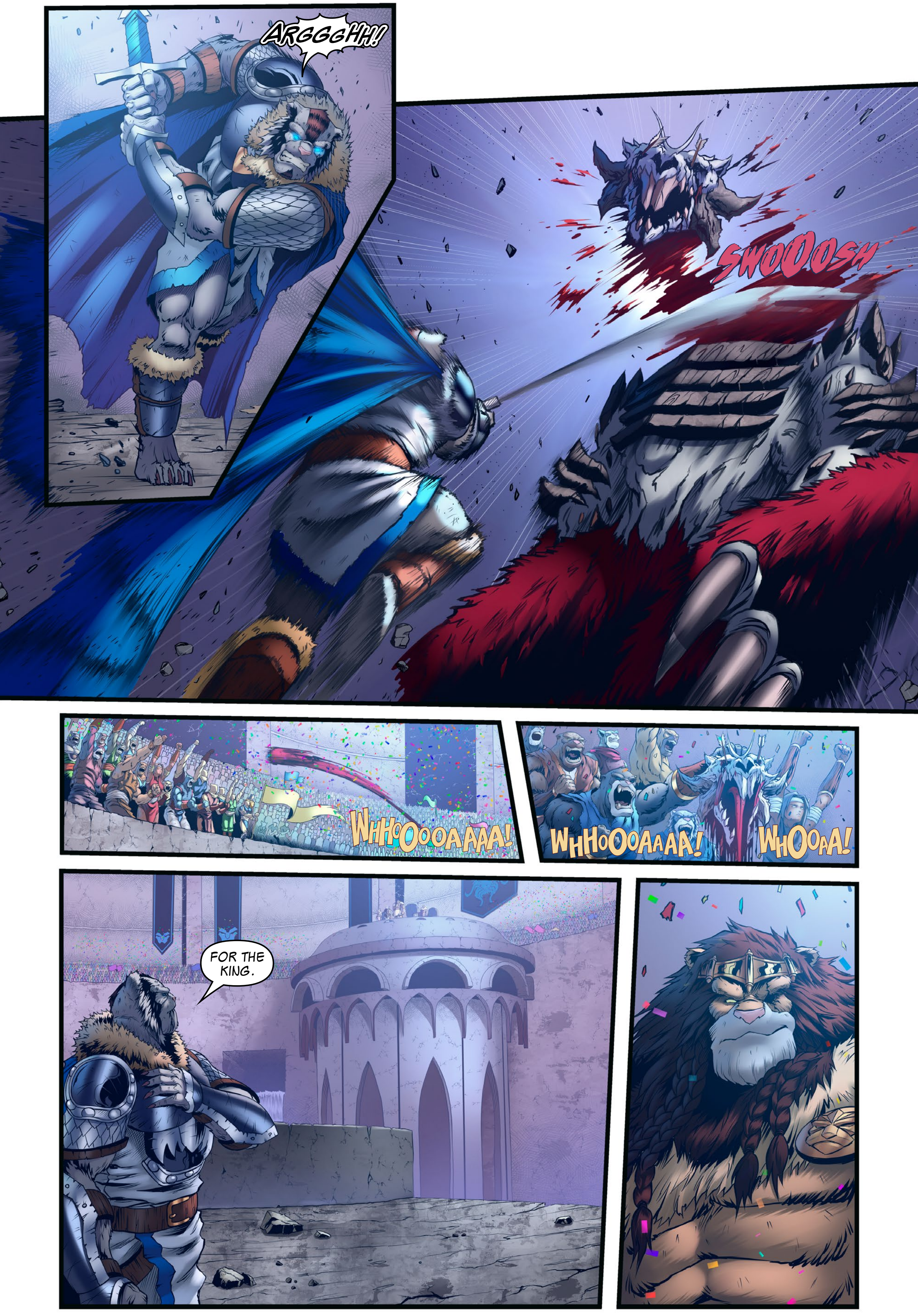

SIRE... WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?
...
NNGH
MY KING...
GET UP, KELTHAN... ZAPHYRA'S MOON IS IN THE SKY.
YOU'VE OVERCOME MUCH WORSE...

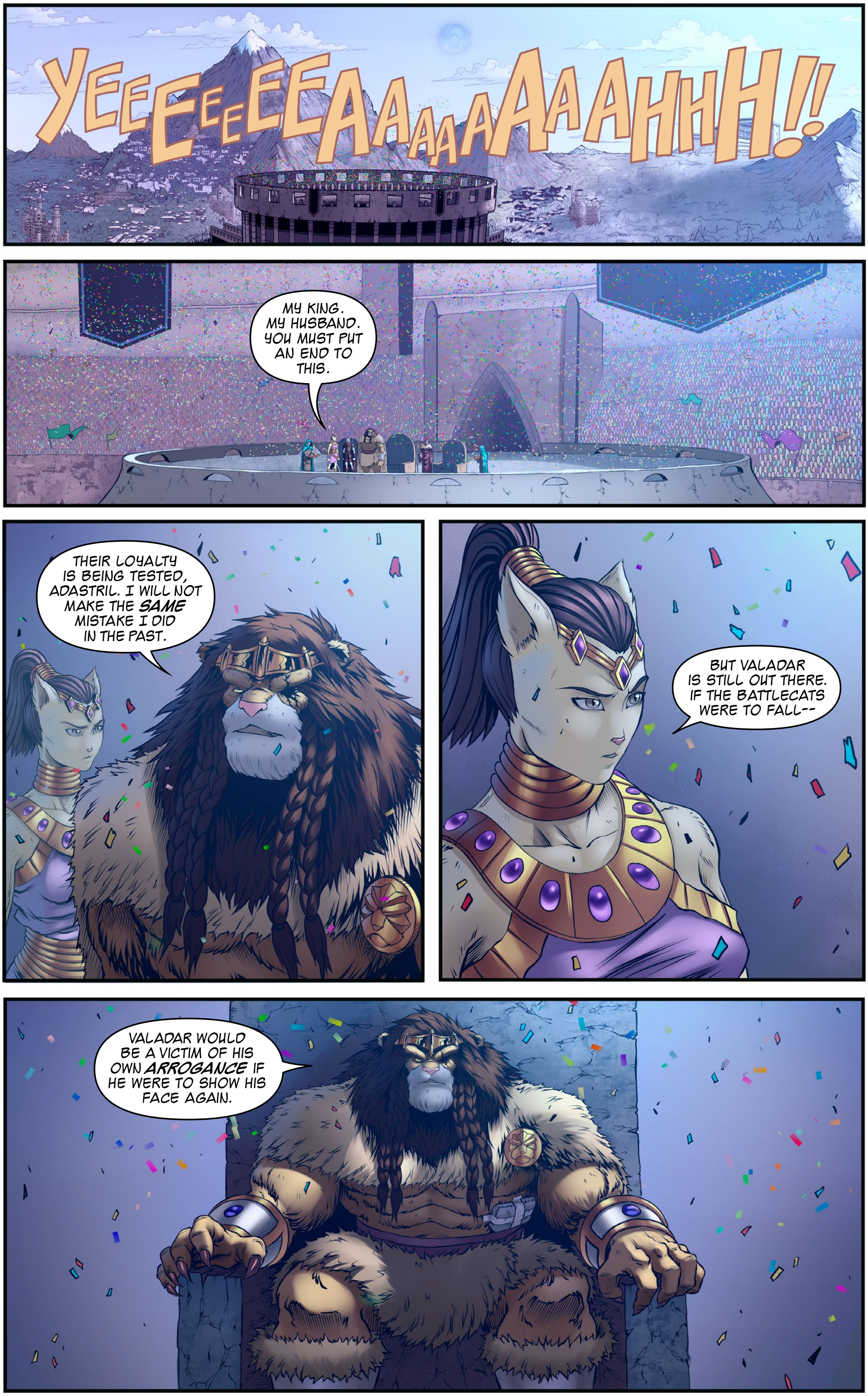

FANGHELM.
TEN YEARS AGO...
SO, YOU ARE THE *FEARLESS* YOUNG WARRIOR FROM STORMHOLT NATHARIEN KEEPS TELLING ME ABOUT.
HE SPEAKS VERY HIGHLY OF YOU.
YOUR RESILIENCE REMINDS HIM OF A YOUNG VALADAR TRAINING AT THE WHITE MARSH ISLANDS.
ARE YOU PREPARED TO TAKE THE *SAME* OATH HE ONCE TOOK?
SIRE, MY LIFE BELONGS TO YOU AND VALDERIA. I WILL UPHOLD THE MANDATES OF THE LION GOD...
...I WILL DEFEND THE CROWN AND PROTECT THE WEAK. THOSE WHO OPPOSE YOU WILL FEEL MY SWORD AT THEIR NECKS.
YES... NOTHING LESS CAN BE EXPECTED FROM THE LEADER OF THE *BATTLECATS.*

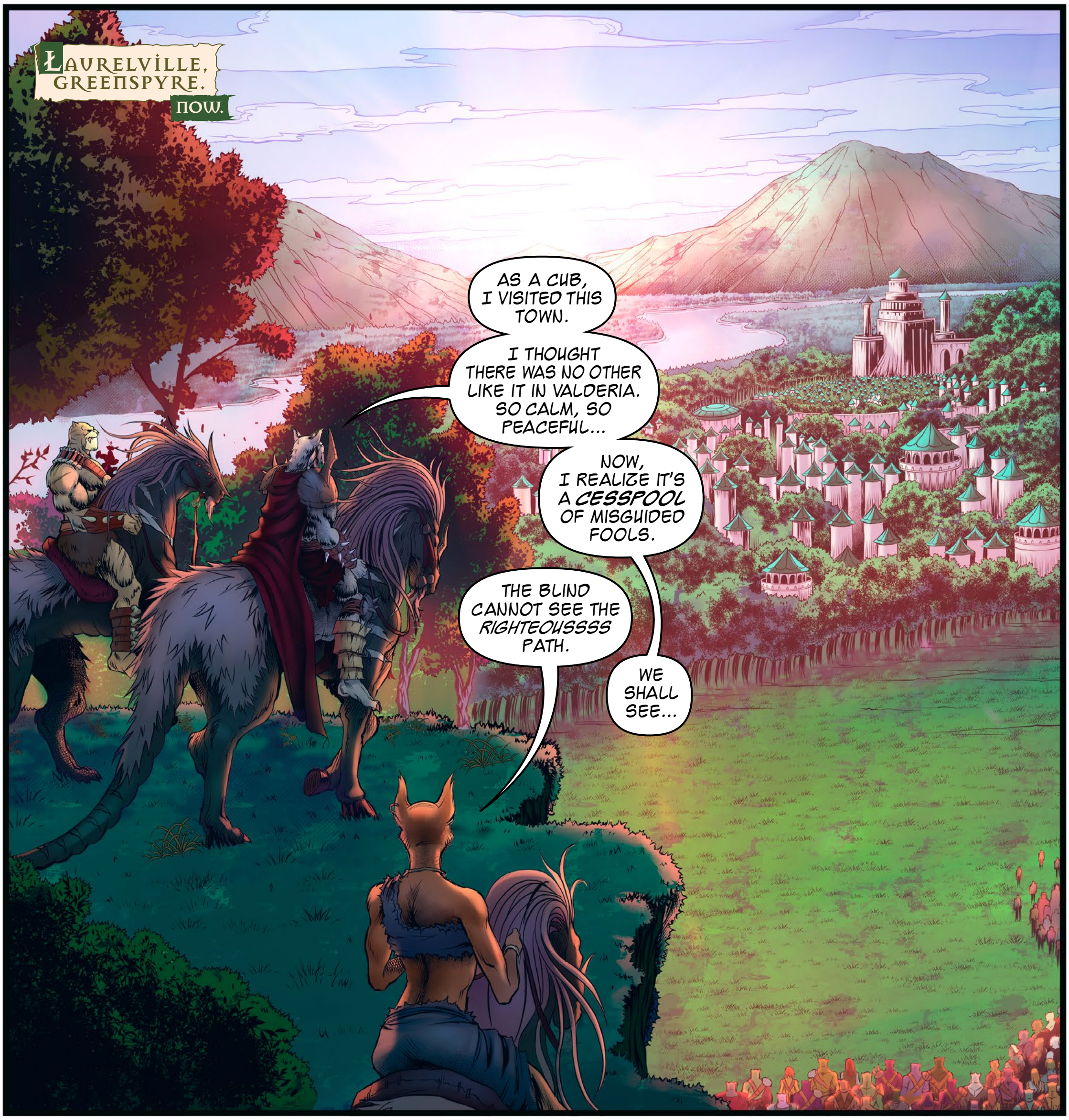

WE MUST SERVE THE LION GOD ABOVE ALL ELSE. AND YET, NOT ALL AGREE WITH HIS MANDATES.
BUT BEFORE YOU TAKE YOUR NEW POSITION, YOU MUST VENTURE TO DRAUPNIR IN ARKHOVIA AND DEFEAT THE *NOCT MAIDEN.*
THAT SPECTRE HAS BEEN CORRUPTING FELINES IN THE AREA, TURNING THEM INTO FOUL CREATURES.
BEWARE...HER POISONOUS CLAWS HAVE BROUGHT DOWN THE STRONGEST BLACKSTONIAN WARRIORS AND BESTED THE MOST SKILLED ARKHOVIAN HEALERS.
CAN YOU DEFEAT HER?
POISON TOLERANCE IS ONE OF RAUTAN'S FAVORITE TEACHINGS THESE DAYS, YOUR GRACE.
HA! HE NEVER TRIED THAT ON ME.
THAT OLD DOG GETS MORE CREATIVE AS THE YEARS GO BY.
GO NOW, KELTHAN.
DEFEAT THE NOCT MAIDEN AND I'LL GRANT YOU A *SECOND TITLE*.
A TITLE ONLY GENERAL SAI AND GOADAR THE GREAT HAVE EVER EARNED...

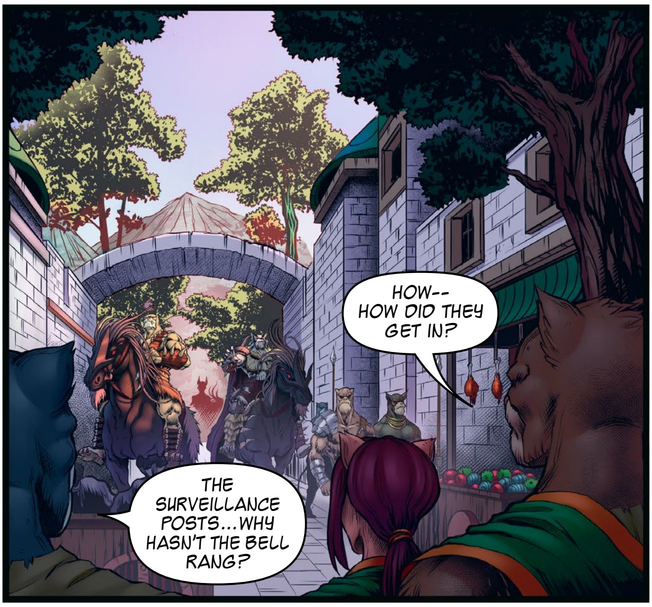

LOOK THE HERO OF LEGEND IS GETTING UP!
KEL-THAN! KEL-THAN!
KEL-THAN! KEL-THAN!
ARGH!
BATTLECATS! ON YOUR FEET!!
SHADOW!
FWASSSH
CLAW FORMATION... NOW!

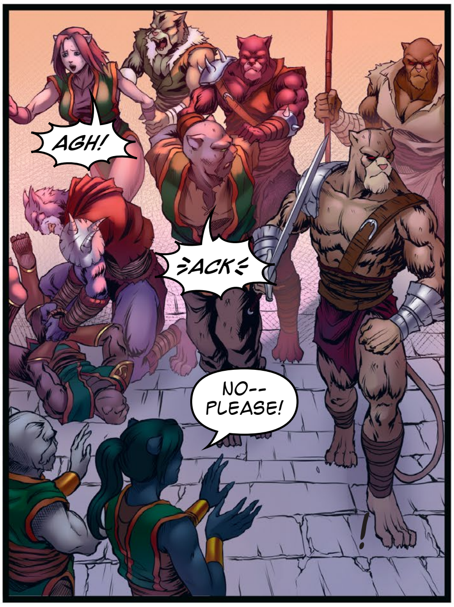


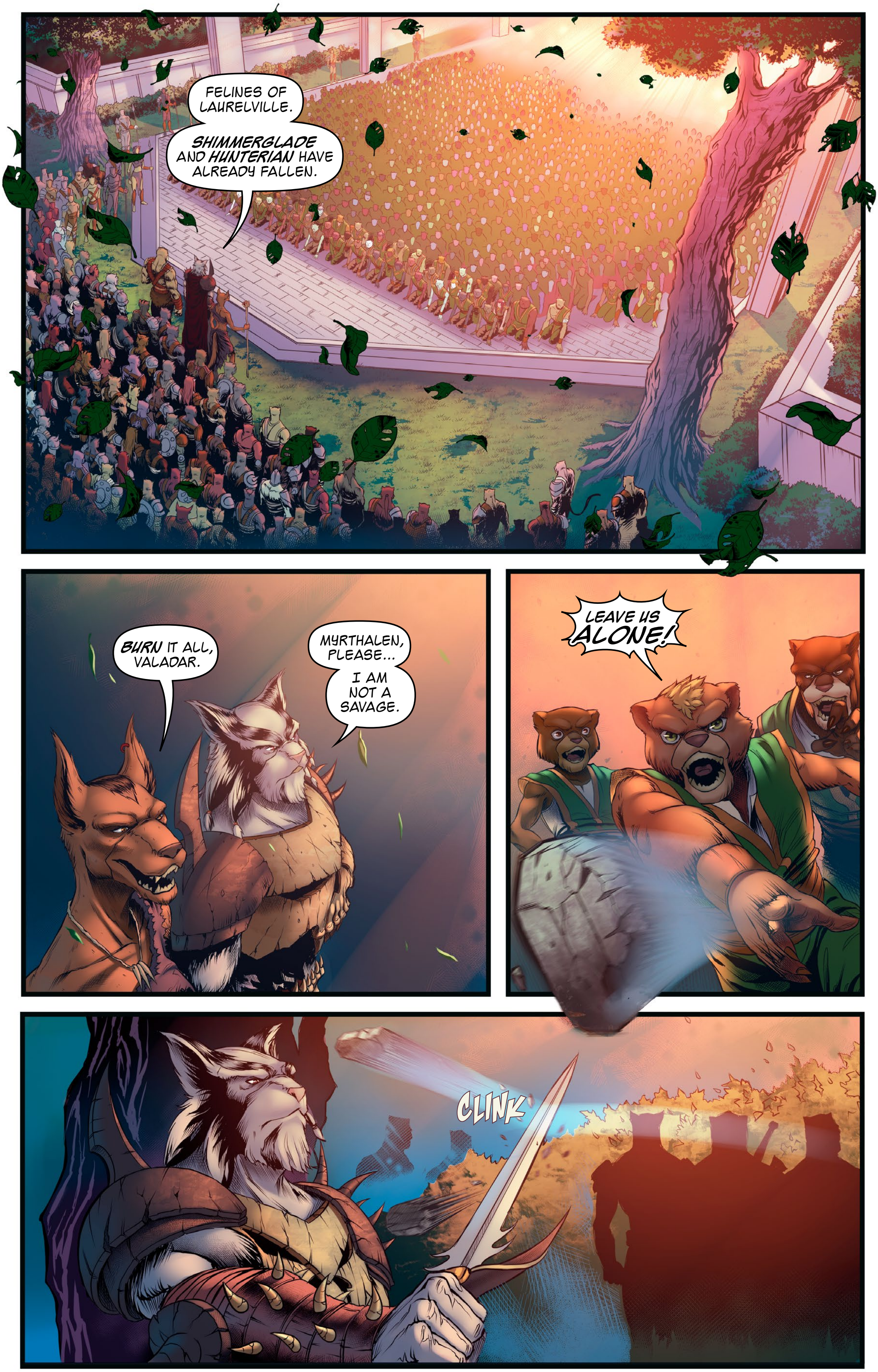

ARGGGHH!
SWOOOSH
WHHOOOOAAAA!
WHHOOOAAAAA!
WHOOAA!
FOR THE KING.

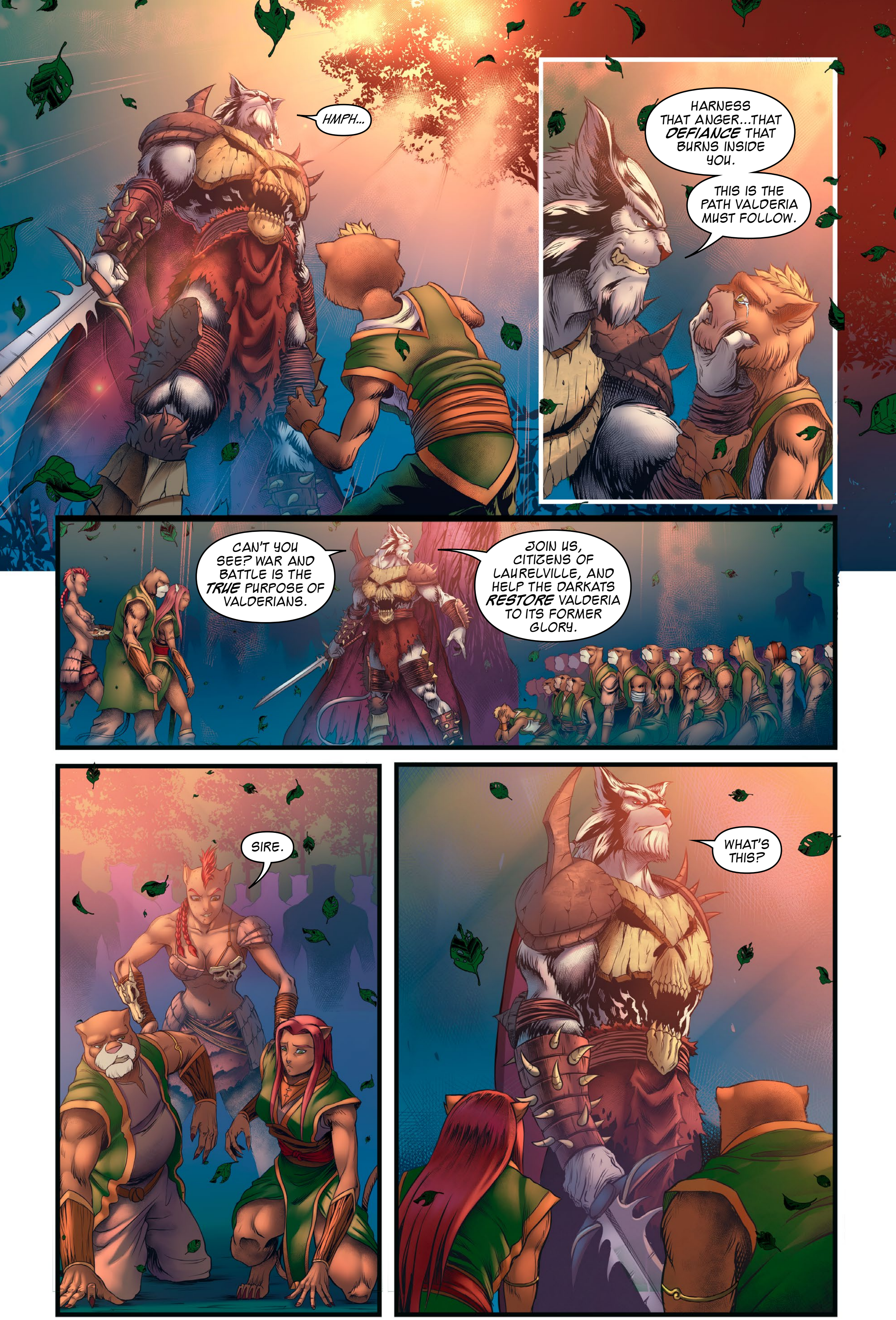

YEEEEEEEAAAAAAAAAHHH!!
MY KING. MY HUSBAND. YOU MUST PUT AN END TO THIS.
THEIR LOYALTY IS BEING TESTED, ADASTRIL. I WILL NOT MAKE THE *SAME* MISTAKE I DID IN THE PAST.
BUT VALADAR IS STILL OUT THERE. IF THE BATTLECATS WERE TO FALL--
VALADAR WOULD BE A VICTIM OF HIS OWN *ARROGANCE* IF HE WERE TO SHOW HIS FACE AGAIN.

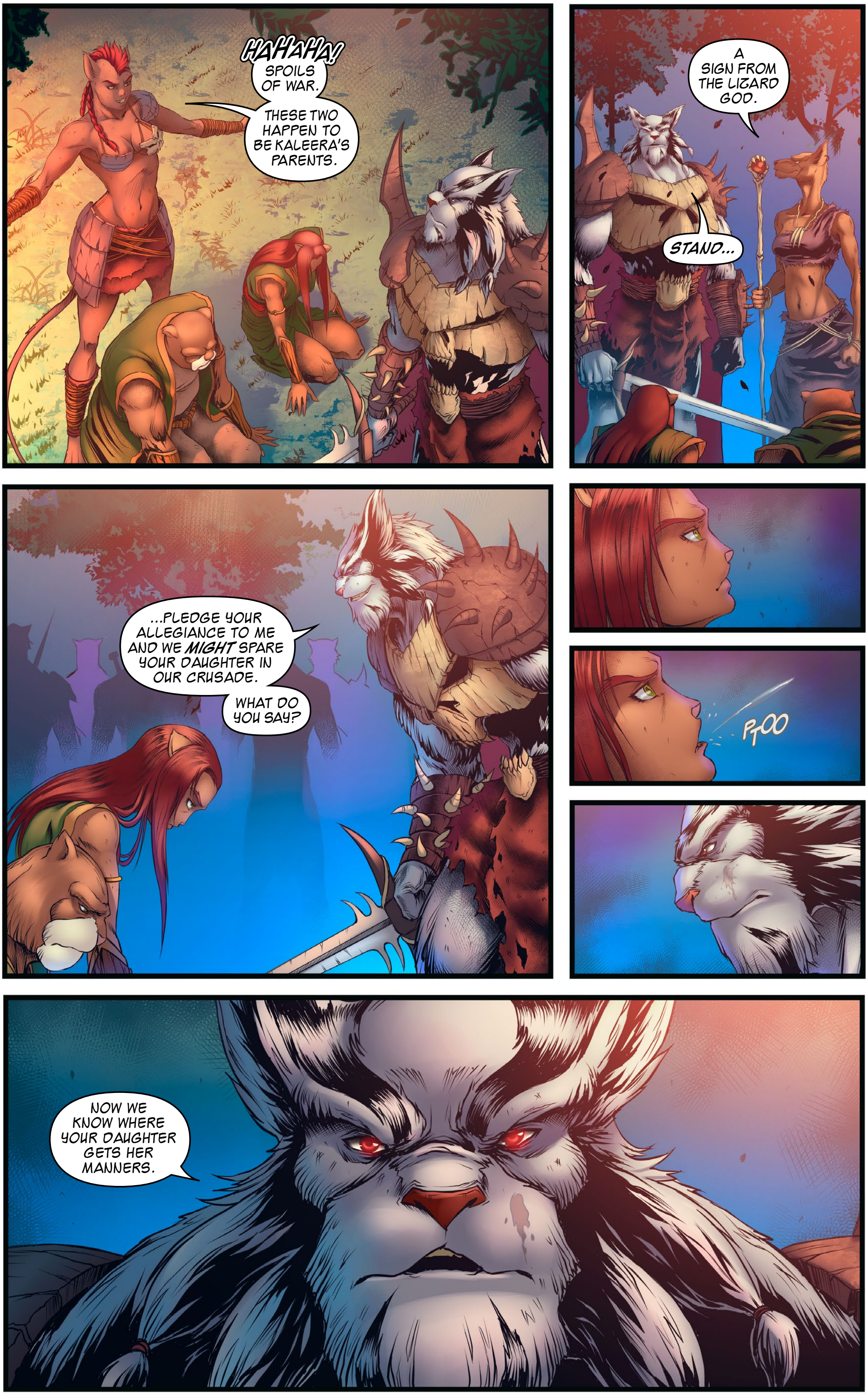

LAURELVILLE, GREENSPYRE.
NOW.
AS A CUB, I VISITED THIS TOWN.
I THOUGHT THERE WAS NO OTHER LIKE IT IN VALDERIA. SO CALM, SO PEACEFUL...
NOW, I REALIZE IT'S A *CESSPOOL* OF MISGUIDED FOOLS.
THE BLIND CANNOT SEE THE *RIGHTEOUSSSS* PATH.
WE SHALL SEE...

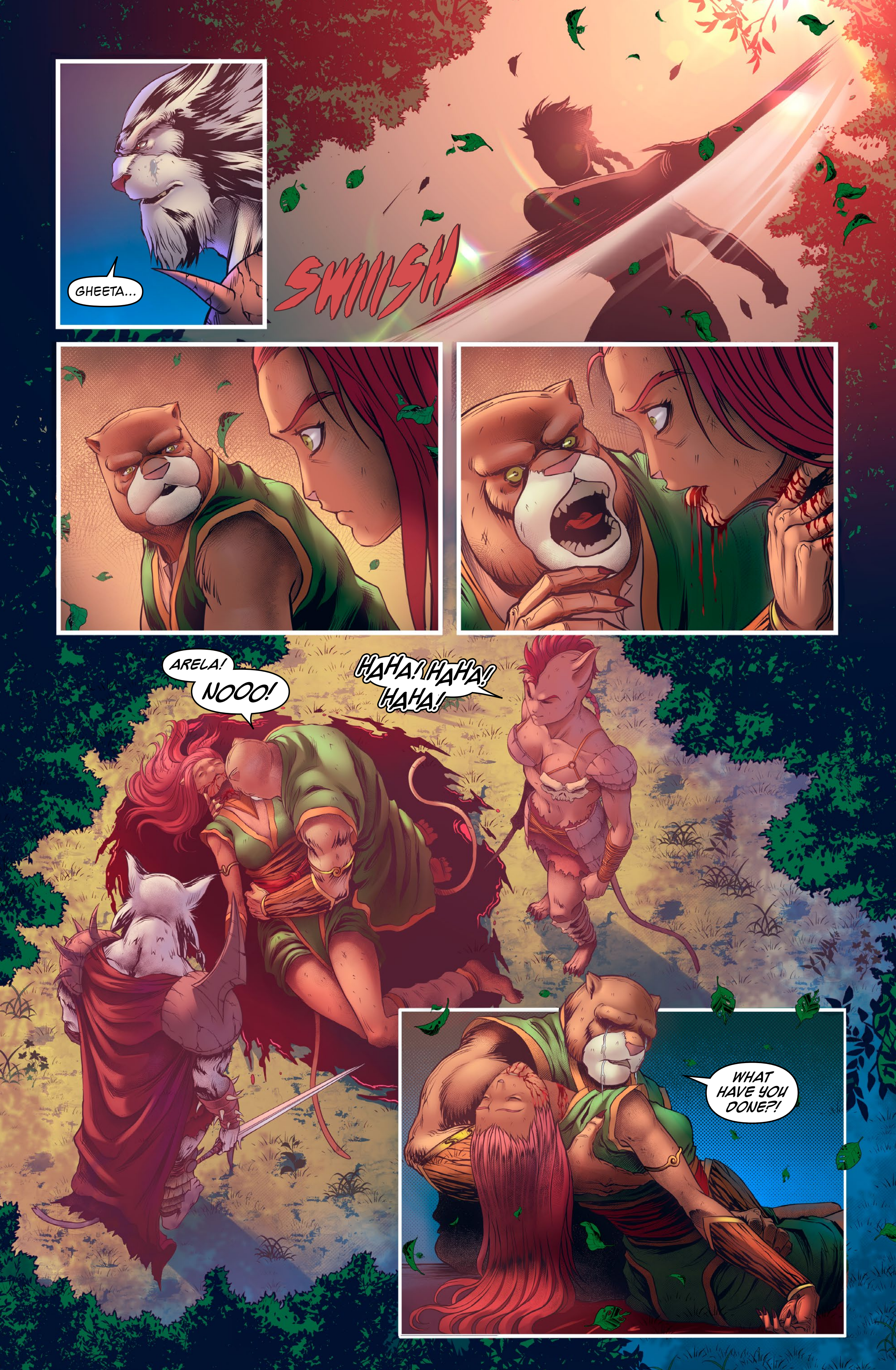

HOW-- HOW DID THEY GET IN?
THE SURVEILLANCE POSTS...WHY HASN'T THE BELL RANG?

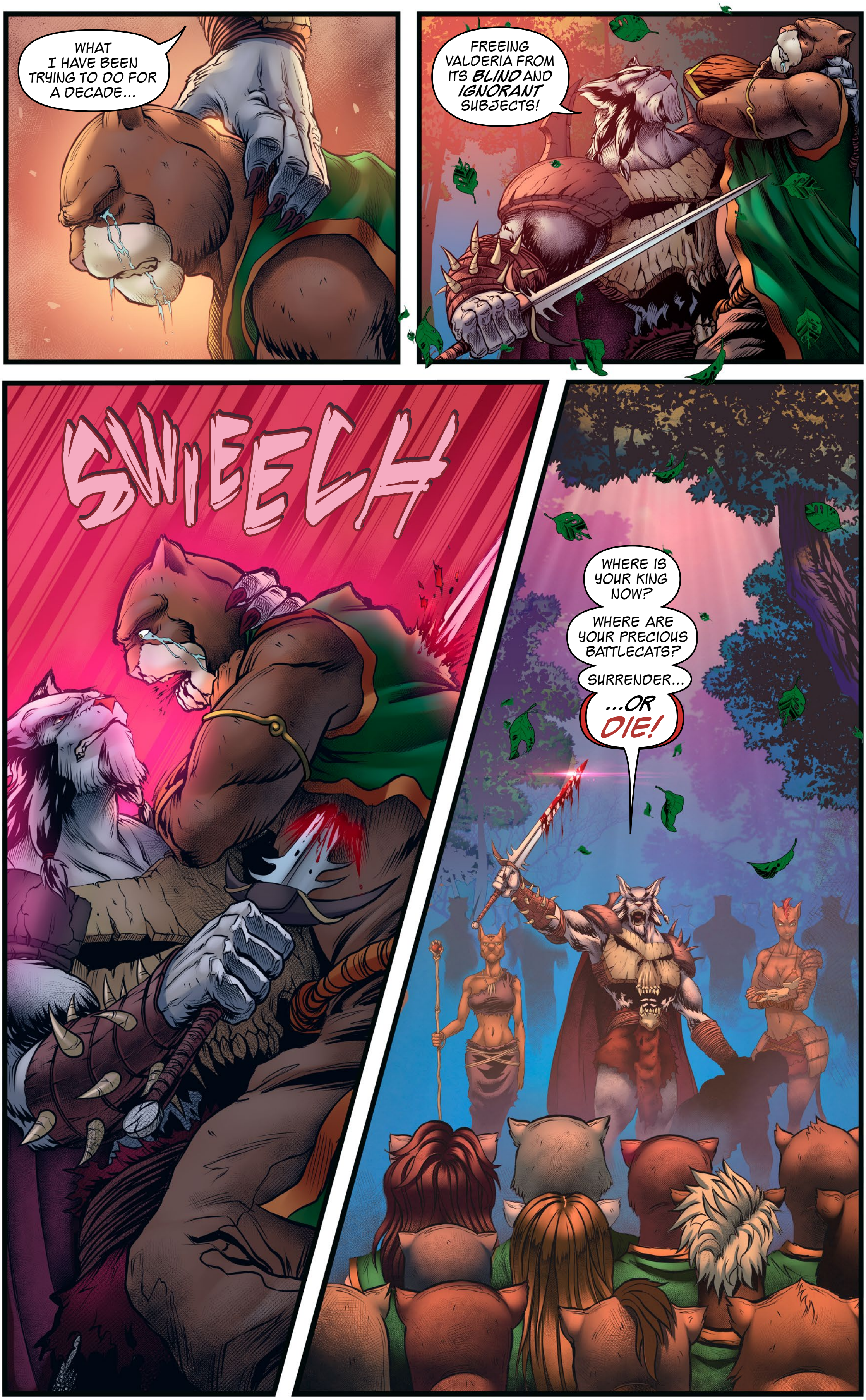

AGH!
ACK
NO-- PLEASE!

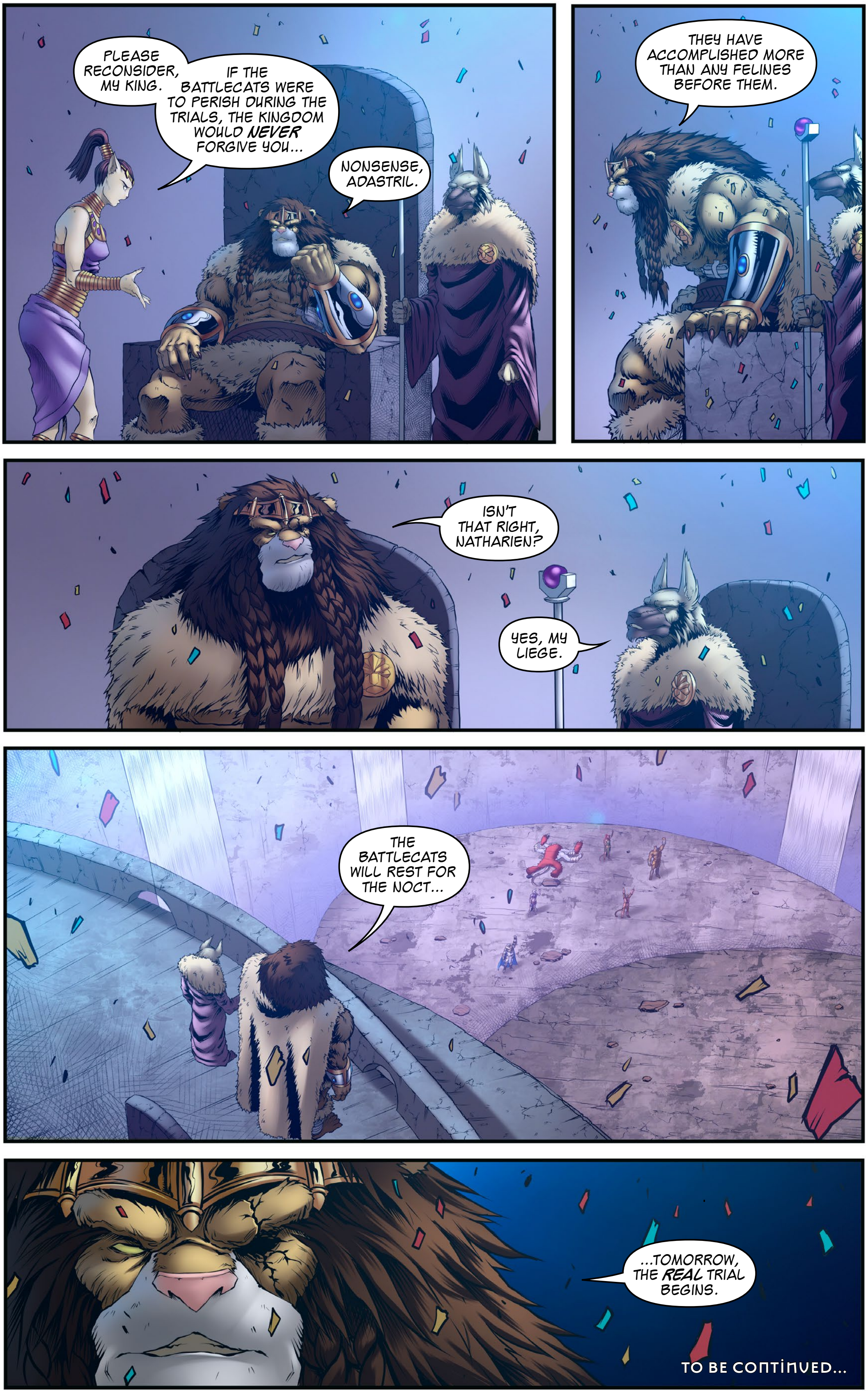

FELINES OF LAURELVILLE.
SHIMMERGLADE AND HUNTERIAN HAVE ALREADY FALLEN.
BURN IT ALL, VALADAR.
MYRTHALEN, PLEASE...
I AM NOT A SAVAGE.
LEAVE US ALONE!
CLINK


HMPH...
HARNESS THAT ANGER...THAT *DEFIANCE* THAT BURNS INSIDE YOU.
THIS IS THE PATH VALDERIA MUST FOLLOW.
CAN'T YOU SEE? WAR AND BATTLE IS THE *TRUE* PURPOSE OF VALDERIANS.
JOIN US, CITIZENS OF LAURELVILLE, AND HELP THE DARKATS *RESTORE* VALDERIA TO ITS FORMER GLORY.
SIRE.
WHAT'S THIS?


HAHAHA!
SPOILS OF WAR.
THESE TWO HAPPEN TO BE KALEERA'S PARENTS.
A SIGN FROM THE LIZARD GOD.
STAND...
...PLEDGE YOUR ALLEGIANCE TO ME AND WE *MIGHT* SPARE YOUR DAUGHTER IN OUR CRUSADE.
WHAT DO YOU SAY?
PTOO
NOW WE KNOW WHERE YOUR DAUGHTER GETS HER MANNERS.


GHEETA...
SWIIISH
ARELA! NOOO!
HAHA! HAHA! HAHA!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!


WHAT I HAVE BEEN TRYING TO DO FOR A DECADE...
FREEING VALDERIA FROM ITS *BLIND* AND *IGNORANT* SUBJECTS!
SWEECH
WHERE IS YOUR KING NOW?
WHERE ARE YOUR PRECIOUS BATTLECATS?
SURRENDER...
...OR DIE!

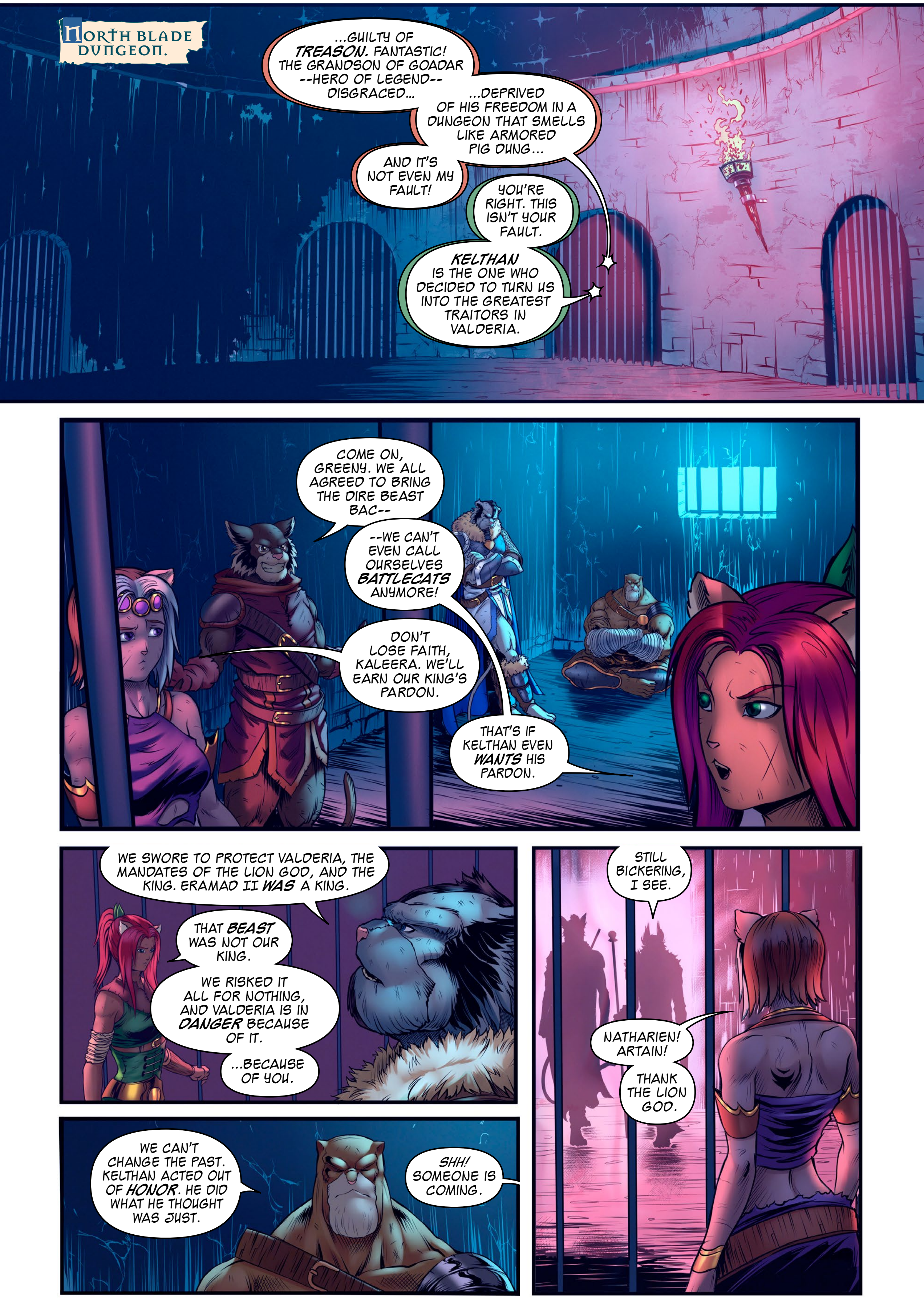

PLEASE RECONSIDER, MY KING.
IF THE BATTLECATS WERE TO PERISH DURING THE TRIALS, THE KINGDOM WOULD ***NEVER*** FORGIVE YOU...
NONSENSE, ADASTRIL.
THEY HAVE ACCOMPLISHED MORE THAN ANY FELINES BEFORE THEM.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, NATHARIEN?
YES, MY LIEGE.
THE BATTLECATS WILL REST FOR THE NOCT...
...TOMORROW, THE ***REAL*** TRIAL BEGINS.
TO BE CONTINUED...

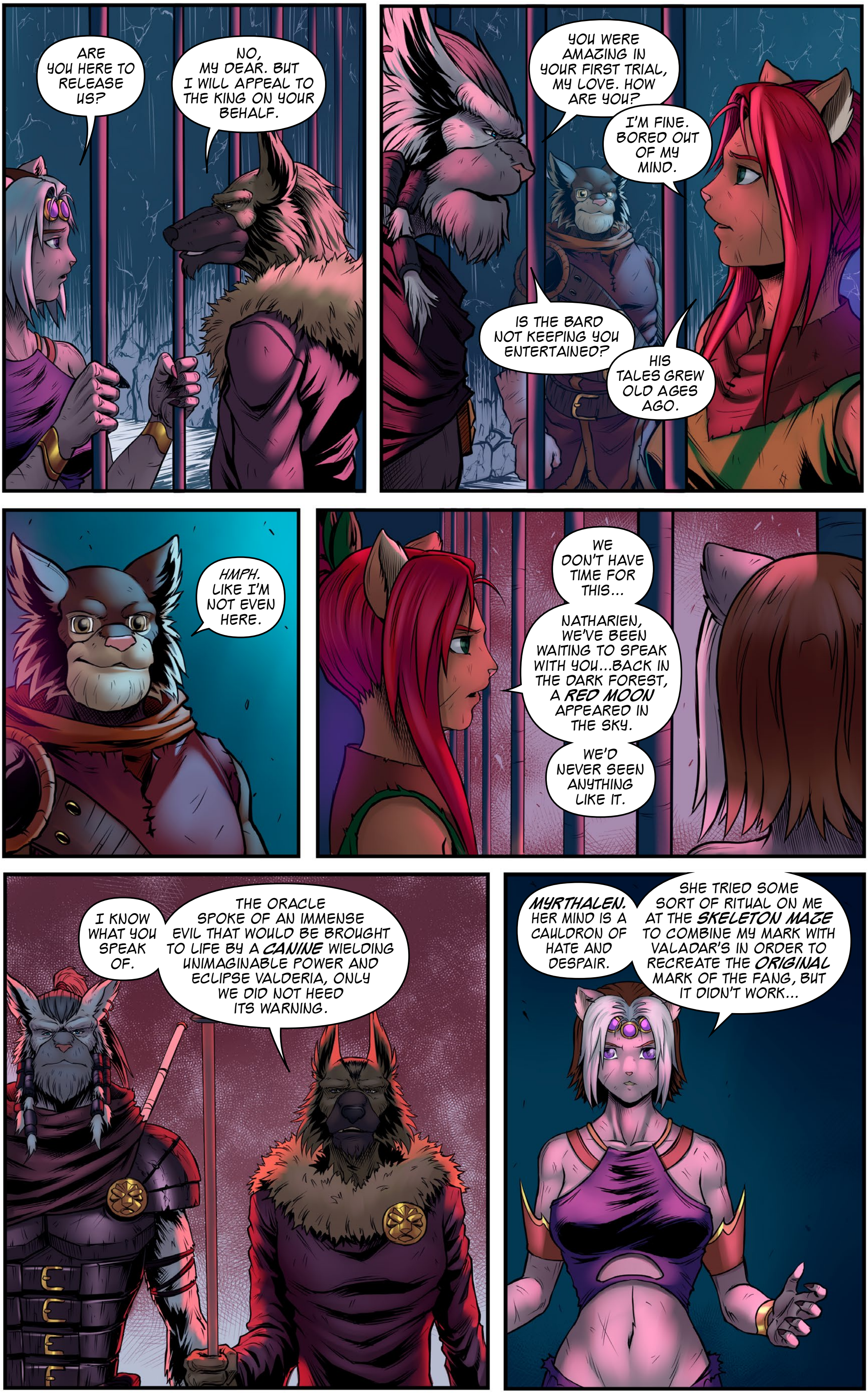
GARDENS OF SOLITUDE

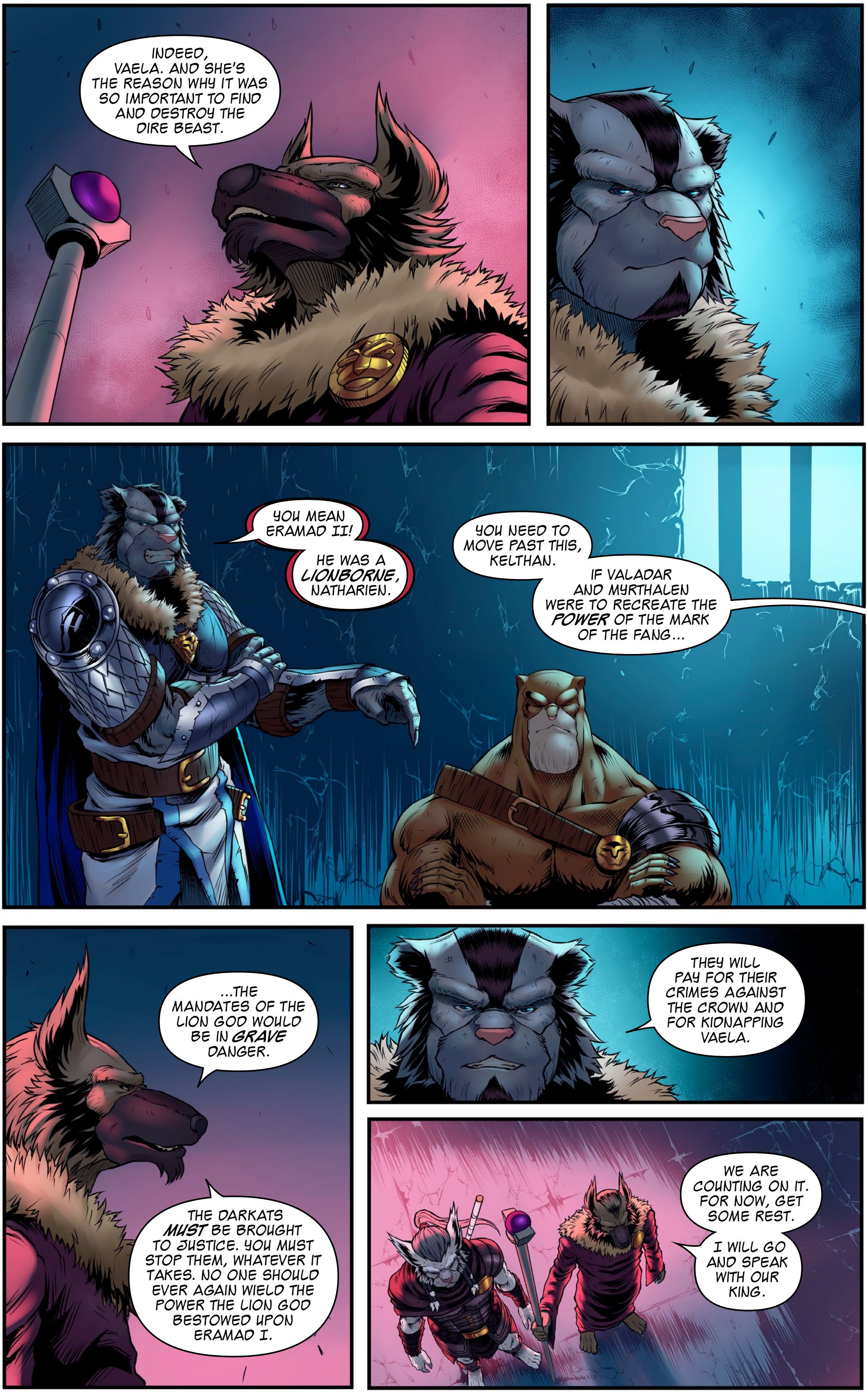
2

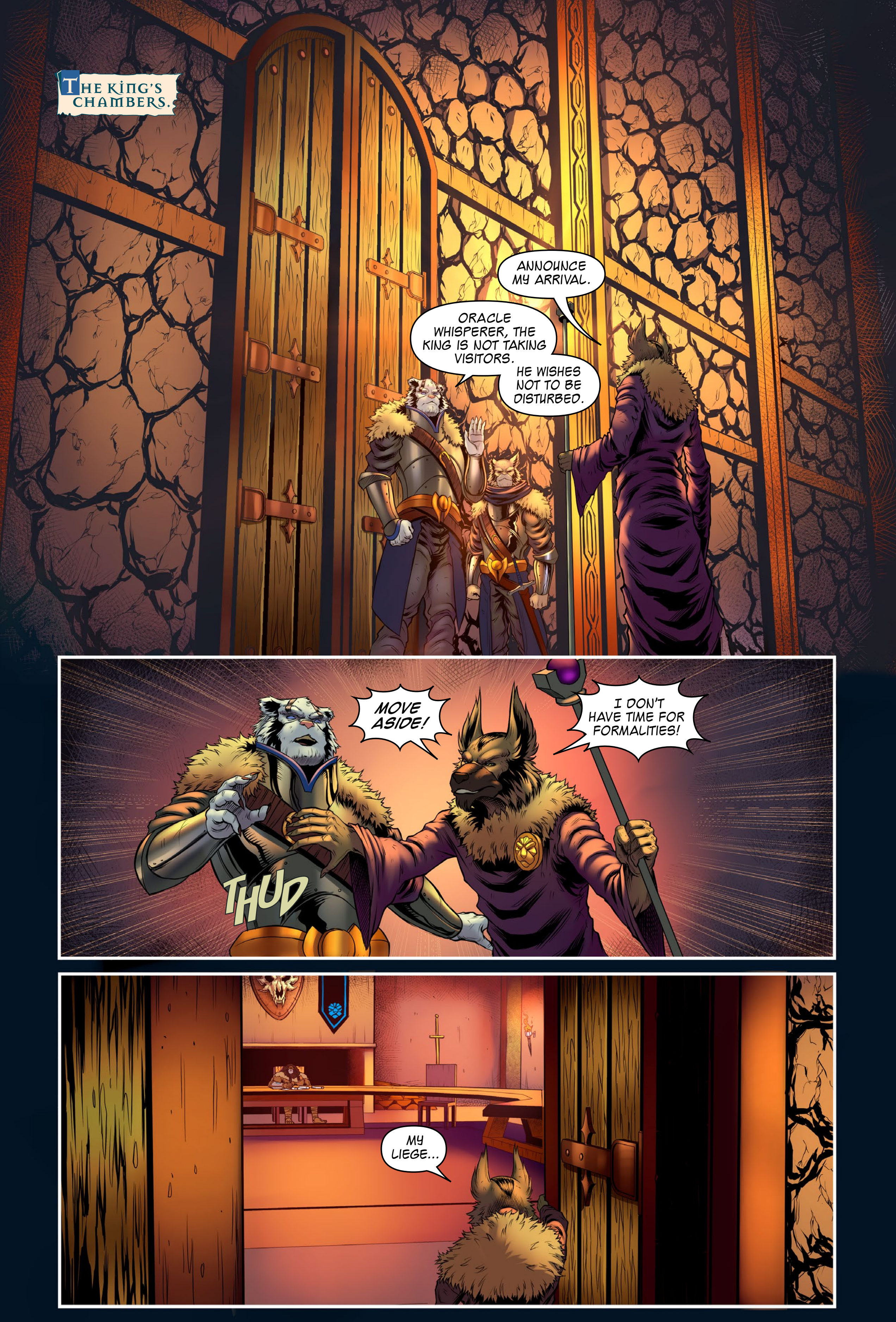
Chapter Two

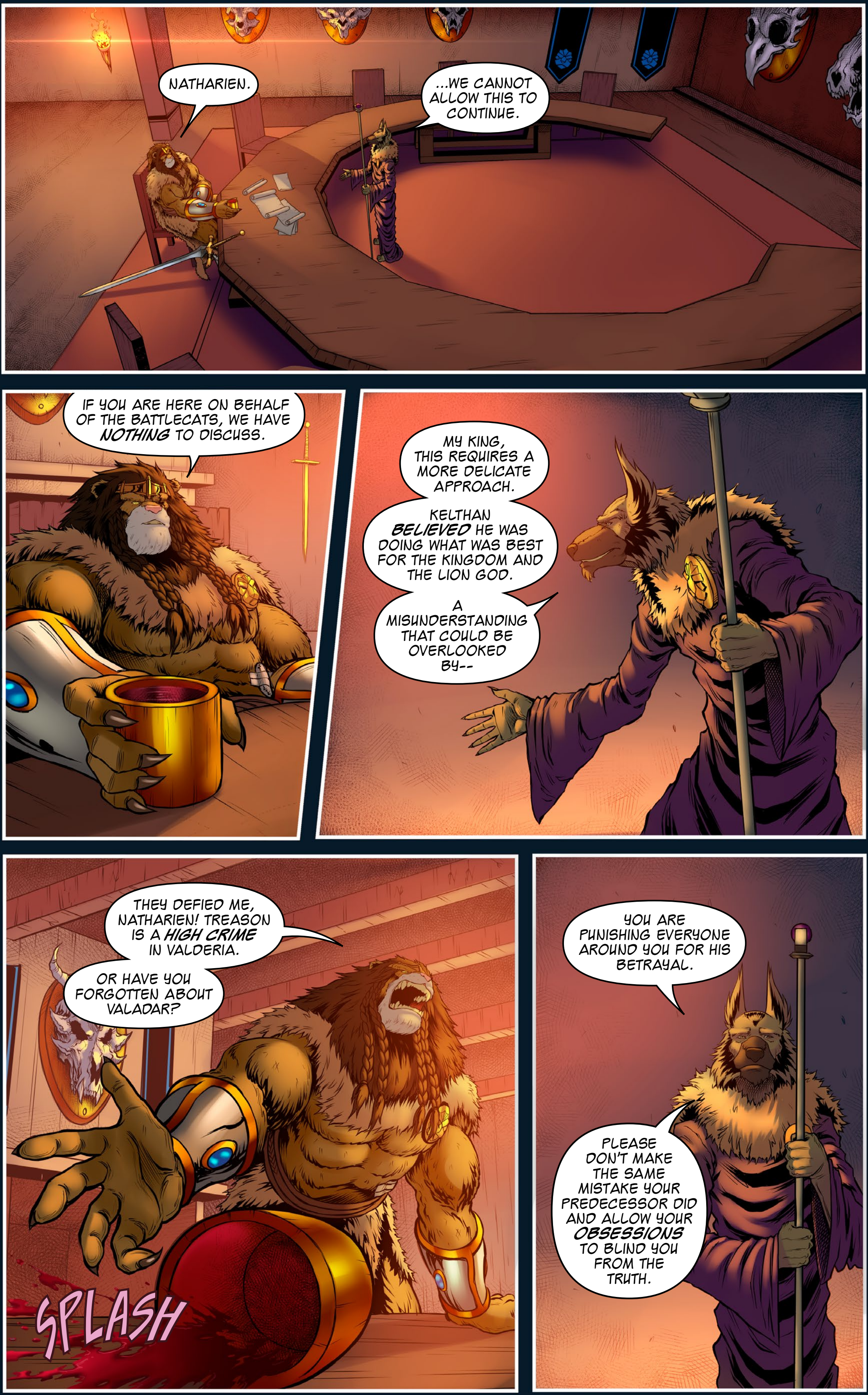
Tekino
Mike
Cometo

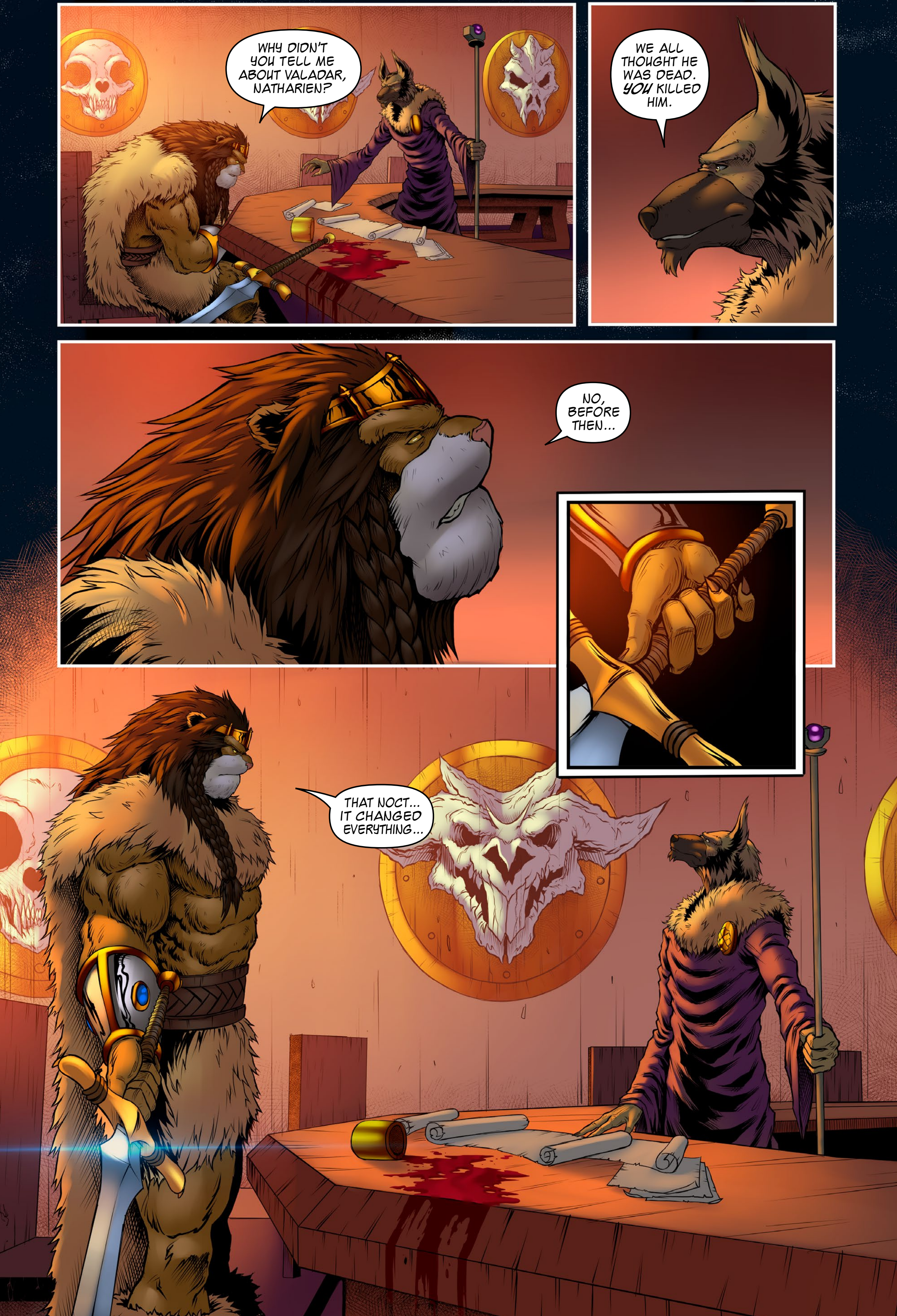

NORTH BLADE DUNGEON.
...GUILTY OF *TREASON.* FANTASTIC! THE GRANDSON OF GOADAR --HERO OF LEGEND-- DISGRACED...
...DEPRIVED OF HIS FREEDOM IN A DUNGEON THAT SMELLS LIKE ARMORED PIG DUNG...
AND IT'S NOT EVEN MY FAULT!
YOU'RE RIGHT. THIS ISN'T YOUR FAULT.
KELTHAN IS THE ONE WHO DECIDED TO TURN US INTO THE GREATEST TRAITORS IN VALDERIA.
COME ON, GREENY. WE ALL AGREED TO BRING THE DIRE BEAST BAC--
--WE CAN'T EVEN CALL OURSELVES *BATTLECATS* ANYMORE!
DON'T LOSE FAITH, KALEERA. WE'LL EARN OUR KING'S PARDON.
THAT'S IF KELTHAN EVEN *WANTS* HIS PARDON.
WE SWORE TO PROTECT VALDERIA, THE MANDATES OF THE LION GOD, AND THE KING. ERAMAD II *WAS* A KING.
THAT *BEAST* WAS NOT OUR KING.
WE RISKED IT ALL FOR NOTHING, AND VALDERIA IS IN *DANGER* BECAUSE OF IT.
...BECAUSE OF YOU.
WE CAN'T CHANGE THE PAST. KELTHAN ACTED OUT OF *HONOR*. HE DID WHAT HE THOUGHT WAS JUST.
SHH! SOMEONE IS COMING.
STILL BICKERING, I SEE.
NATHARIEN! ARTAIN!
THANK THE LION GOD.

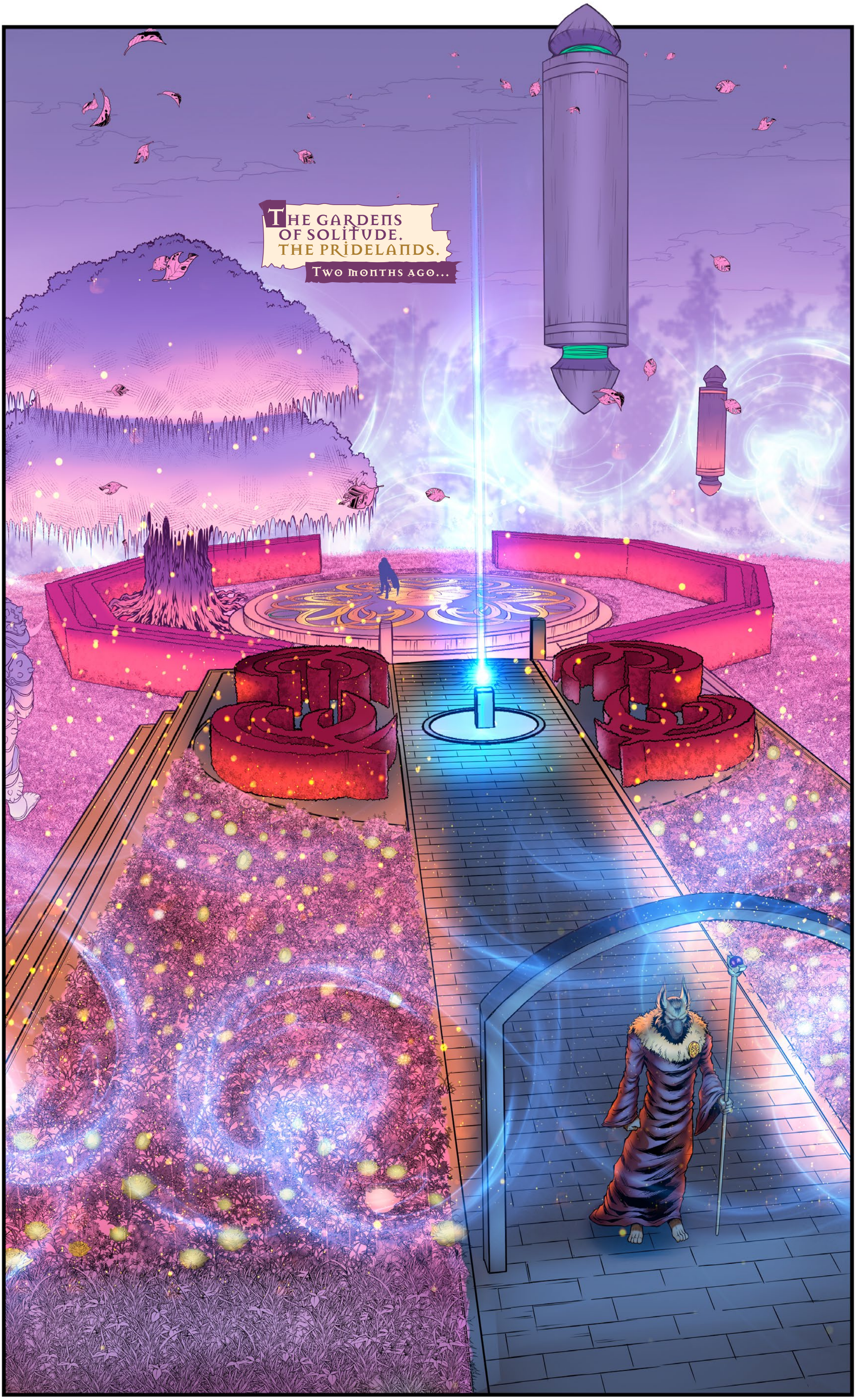

ARE YOU HERE TO RELEASE US?
NO, MY DEAR. BUT I WILL APPEAL TO THE KING ON YOUR BEHALF.
YOU WERE AMAZING IN YOUR FIRST TRIAL, MY LOVE. HOW ARE YOU?
I'M FINE. BORED OUT OF MY MIND.
IS THE BARD NOT KEEPING YOU ENTERTAINED?
HIS TALES GREW OLD AGES AGO.
HMPH. LIKE I'M NOT EVEN HERE.
WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS...
NATHARIEN, WE'VE BEEN WAITING TO SPEAK WITH YOU...BACK IN THE DARK FOREST, A RED MOON APPEARED IN THE SKY.
WE'D NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT.
I KNOW WHAT YOU SPEAK OF.
THE ORACLE SPOKE OF AN IMMENSE EVIL THAT WOULD BE BROUGHT TO LIFE BY A CANINE WIELDING UNIMAGINABLE POWER AND ECLIPSE VALDERIA, ONLY WE DID NOT HEED ITS WARNING.
MYRTHALEN. HER MIND IS A CAULDRON OF HATE AND DESPAIR.
SHE TRIED SOME SORT OF RITUAL ON ME AT THE SKELETON MAZE TO COMBINE MY MARK WITH VALADAR'S IN ORDER TO RECREATE THE ORIGINAL MARK OF THE FANG, BUT IT DIDN'T WORK...

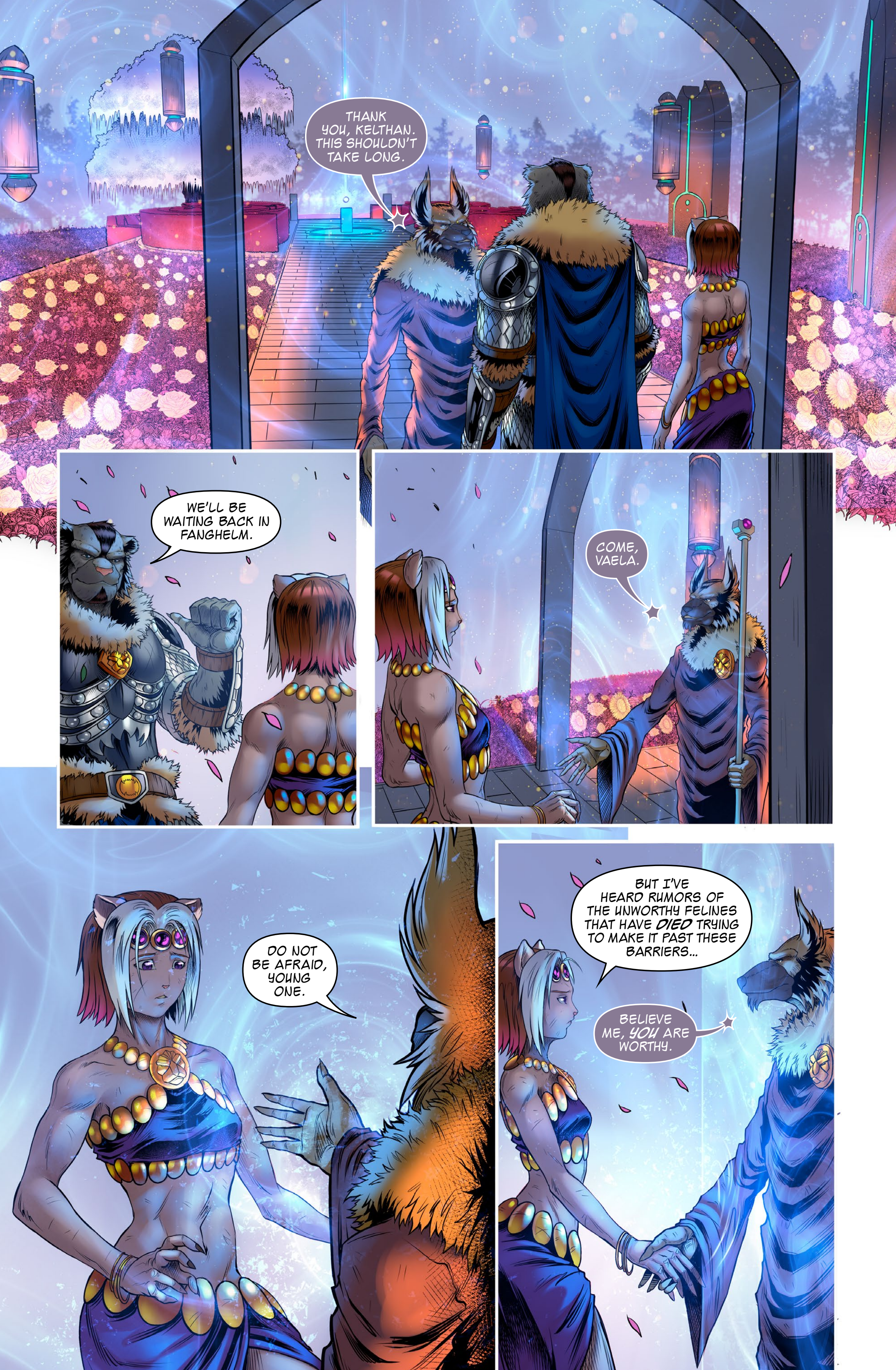

INDEED, VAELA. AND SHE'S THE REASON WHY IT WAS SO IMPORTANT TO FIND AND DESTROY THE DIRE BEAST.
YOU MEAN ERAMAD II!
HE WAS A *LIONBORNE*, NATHARIEN.
YOU NEED TO MOVE PAST THIS, KELTHAN.
IF VALADAR AND MYRTHALEN WERE TO RECREATE THE *POWER* OF THE MARK OF THE FANG...
...THE MANDATES OF THE LION GOD WOULD BE IN *GRAVE* DANGER.
THE DARKATS *MUST* BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE. YOU MUST STOP THEM, WHATEVER IT TAKES. NO ONE SHOULD EVER AGAIN WIELD THE POWER THE LION GOD BESTOWED UPON ERAMAD I.
THEY WILL PAY FOR THEIR CRIMES AGAINST THE CROWN AND FOR KIDNAPPING VAELA.
WE ARE COUNTING ON IT. FOR NOW, GET SOME REST.
I WILL GO AND SPEAK WITH OUR KING.

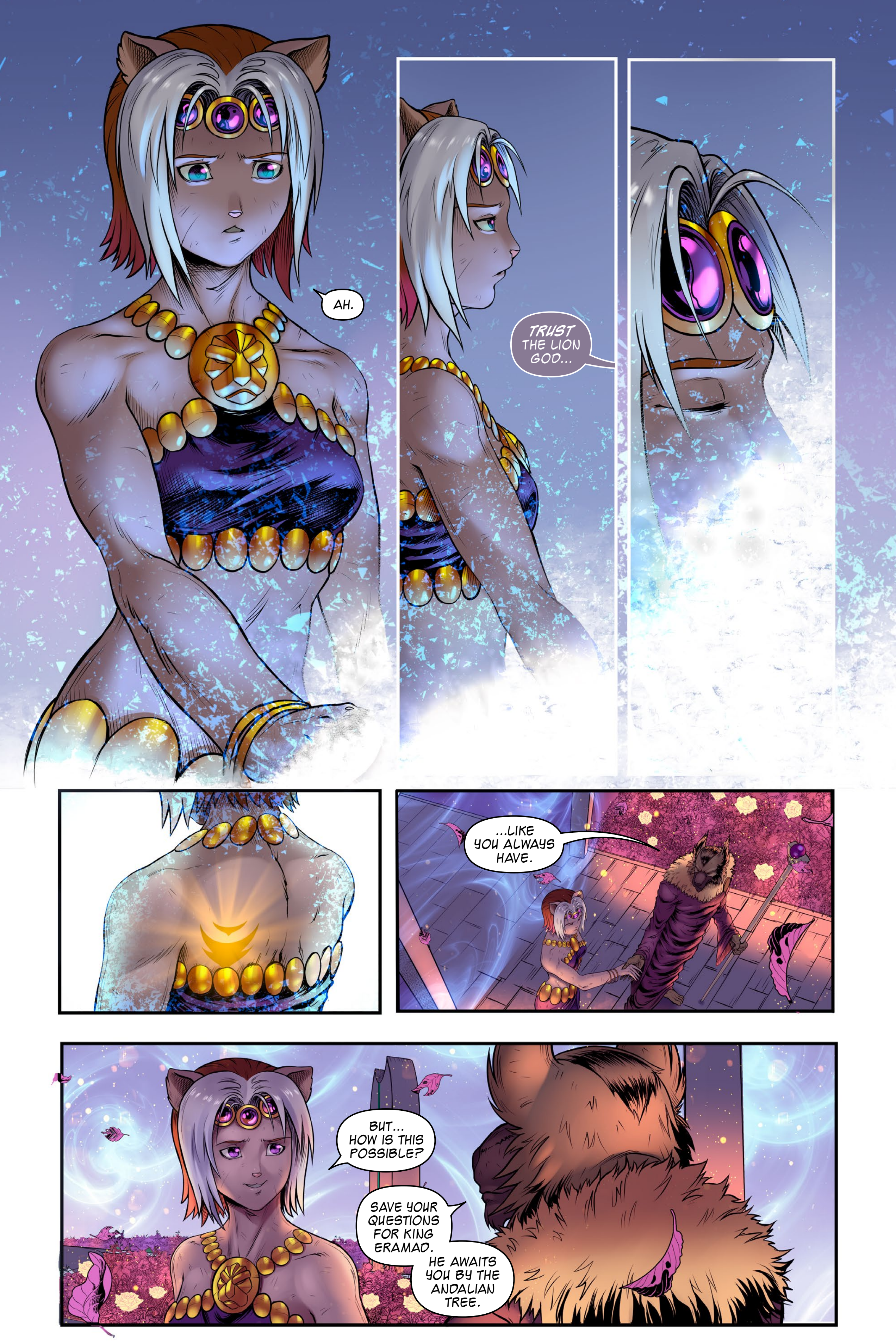

THE KING'S CHAMBERS.
ANNOUNCE MY ARRIVAL.
ORACLE WHISPERER, THE KING IS NOT TAKING VISITORS.
HE WISHES NOT TO BE DISTURBED.
MOVE ASIDE!
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR FORMALITIES!
THUD
MY LIEGE...

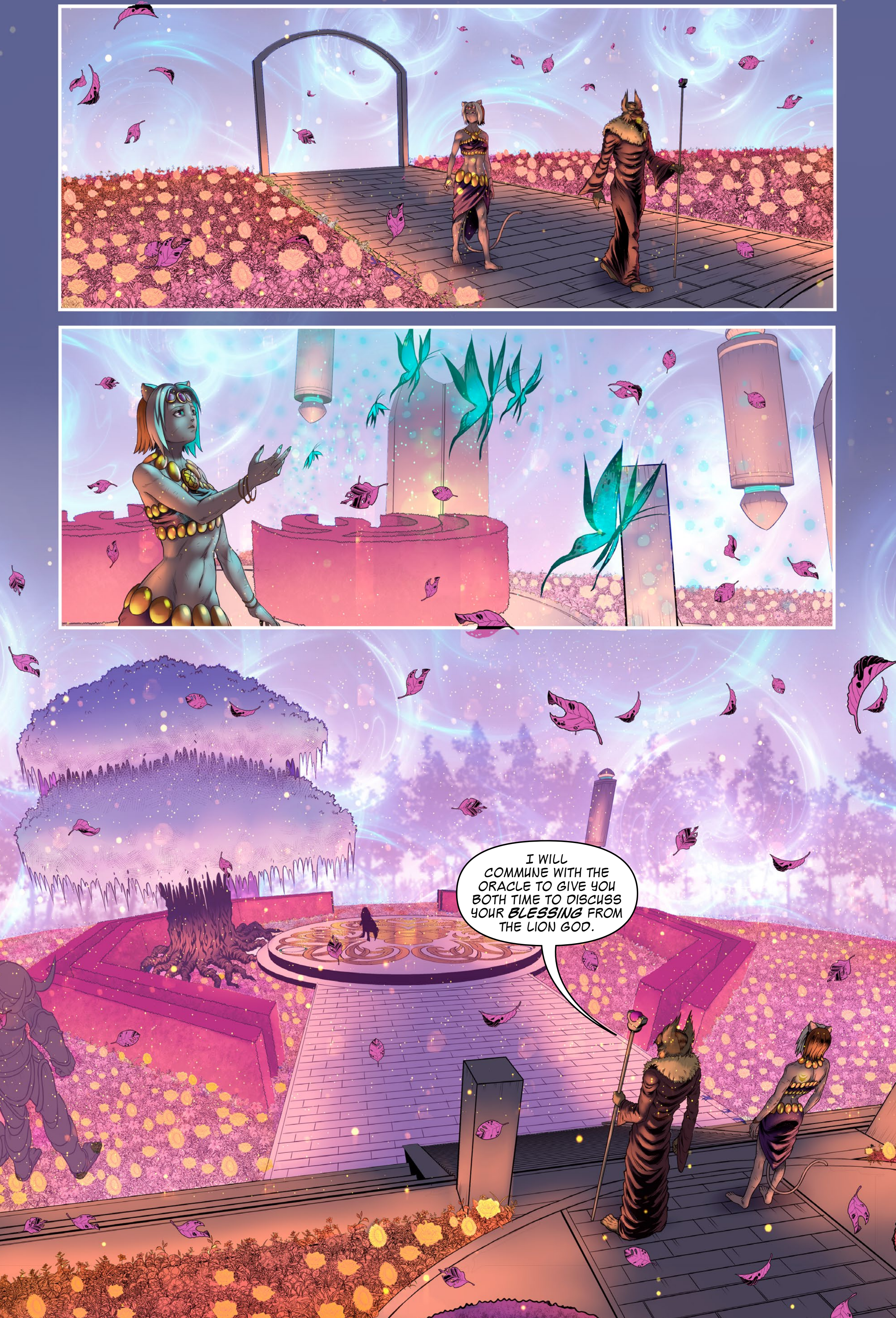

NATHARIEN.
...WE CANNOT ALLOW THIS TO CONTINUE.
IF YOU ARE HERE ON BEHALF OF THE BATTLECATS, WE HAVE *NOTHING* TO DISCUSS.
MY KING, THIS REQUIRES A MORE DELICATE APPROACH.
KELTHAN *BELIEVED* HE WAS DOING WHAT WAS BEST FOR THE KINGDOM AND THE LION GOD.
A MISUNDERSTANDING THAT COULD BE OVERLOOKED BY--
THEY DEFIED ME, NATHARIEN! TREASON IS A *HIGH CRIME* IN VALDERIA.
OR HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN ABOUT VALADAR?
SPLASH
YOU ARE PUNISHING EVERYONE AROUND YOU FOR HIS BETRAYAL.
PLEASE DON'T MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE YOUR PREDECESSOR DID AND ALLOW YOUR *OBSESSIONS* TO BLIND YOU FROM THE TRUTH.

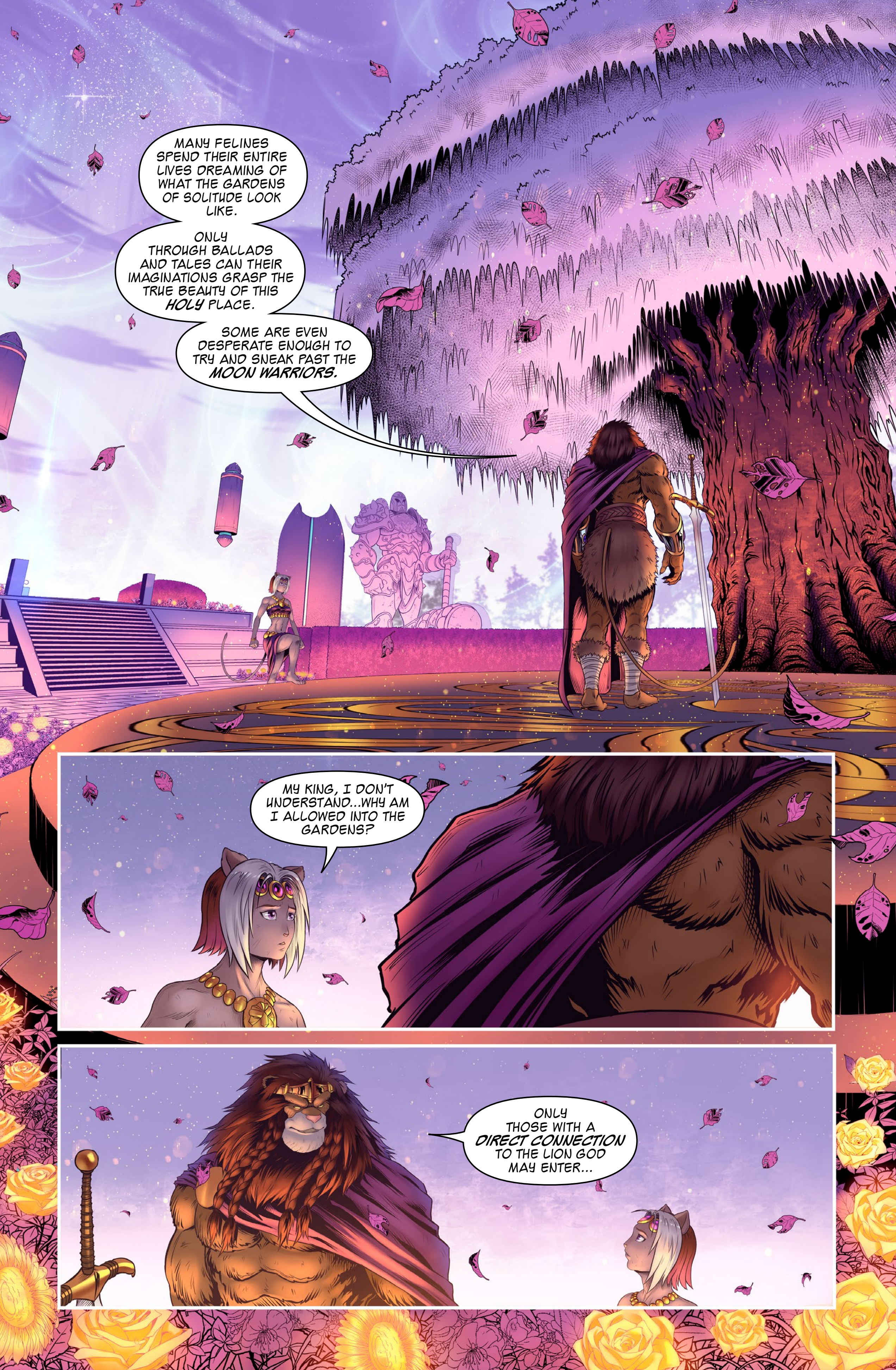

WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME ABOUT VALADAR, NATHARIEN?
WE ALL THOUGHT HE WAS DEAD. *YOU* KILLED HIM.
NO, BEFORE THEN...
THAT NOCT... IT CHANGED EVERYTHING...

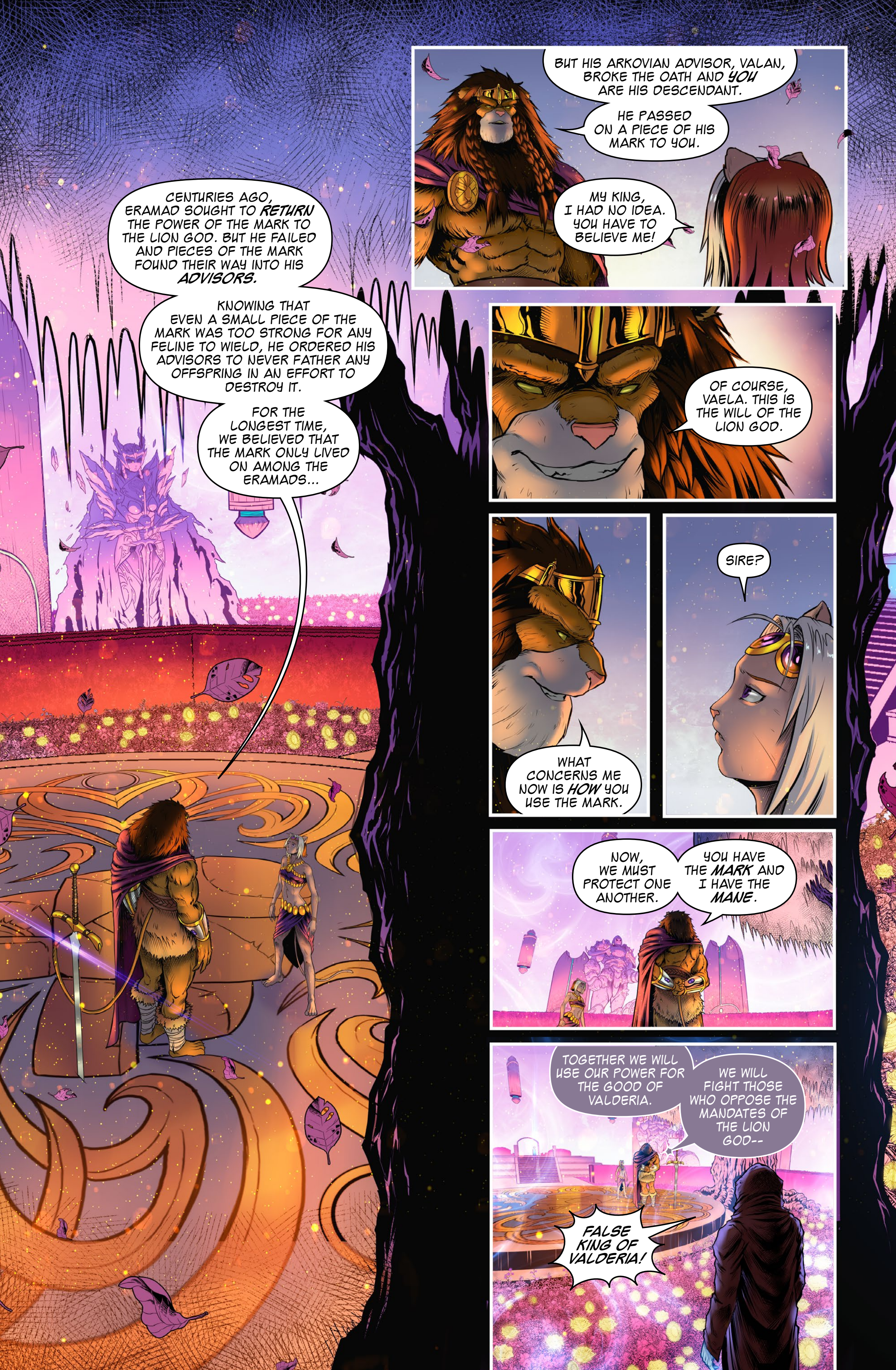

The gardens of solitude. The Pridelands.
Two months ago...

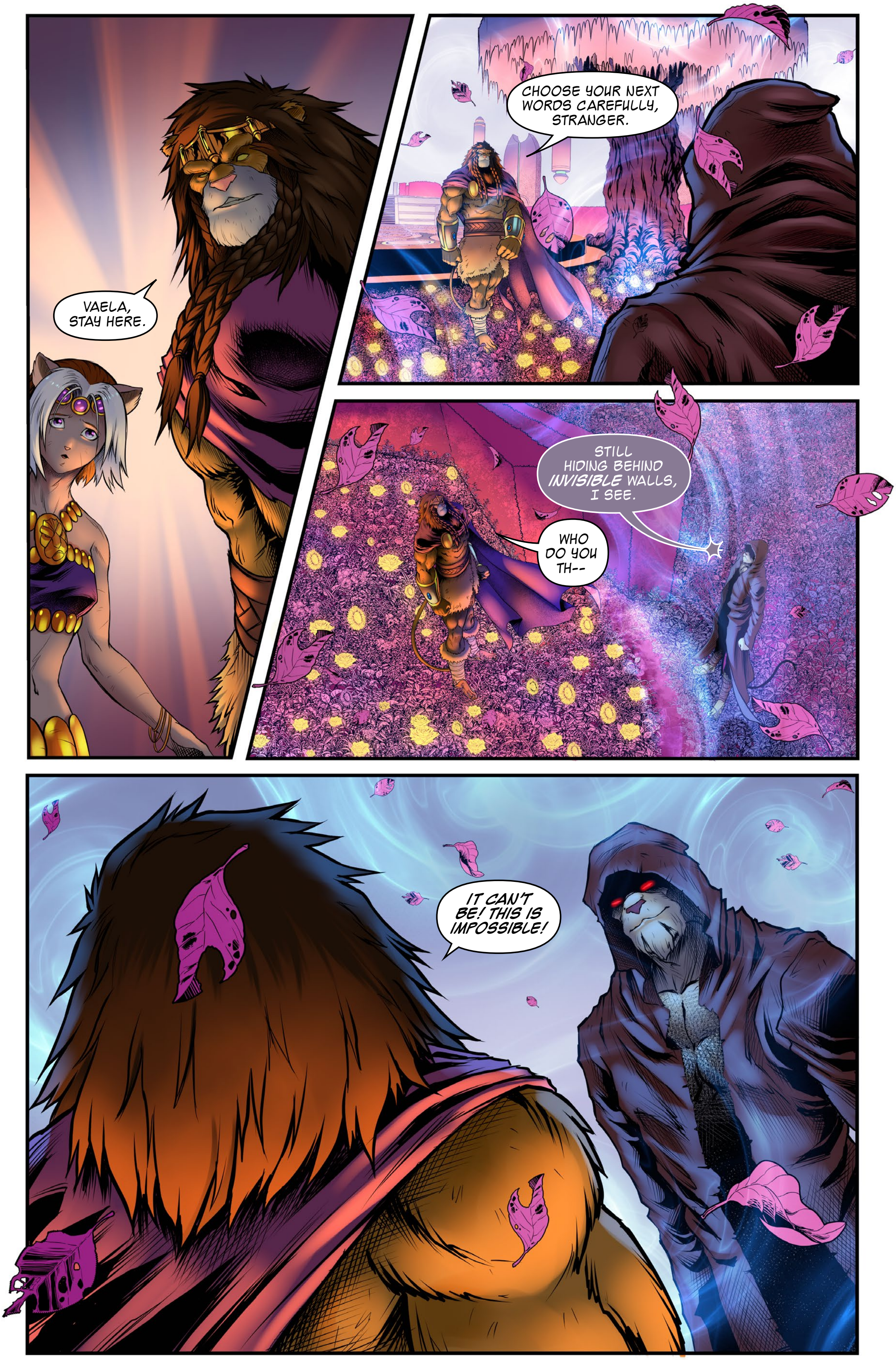

THANK YOU, KELTHAN. THIS SHOULDN'T TAKE LONG.
WE'LL BE WAITING BACK IN FANGHELM.
COME, VAELA.
DO NOT BE AFRAID, YOUNG ONE.
BUT I'VE HEARD RUMORS OF THE UNWORTHY FELINES THAT HAVE *DIED* TRYING TO MAKE IT PAST THESE BARRIERS...
BELIEVE ME, *YOU* ARE WORTHY.

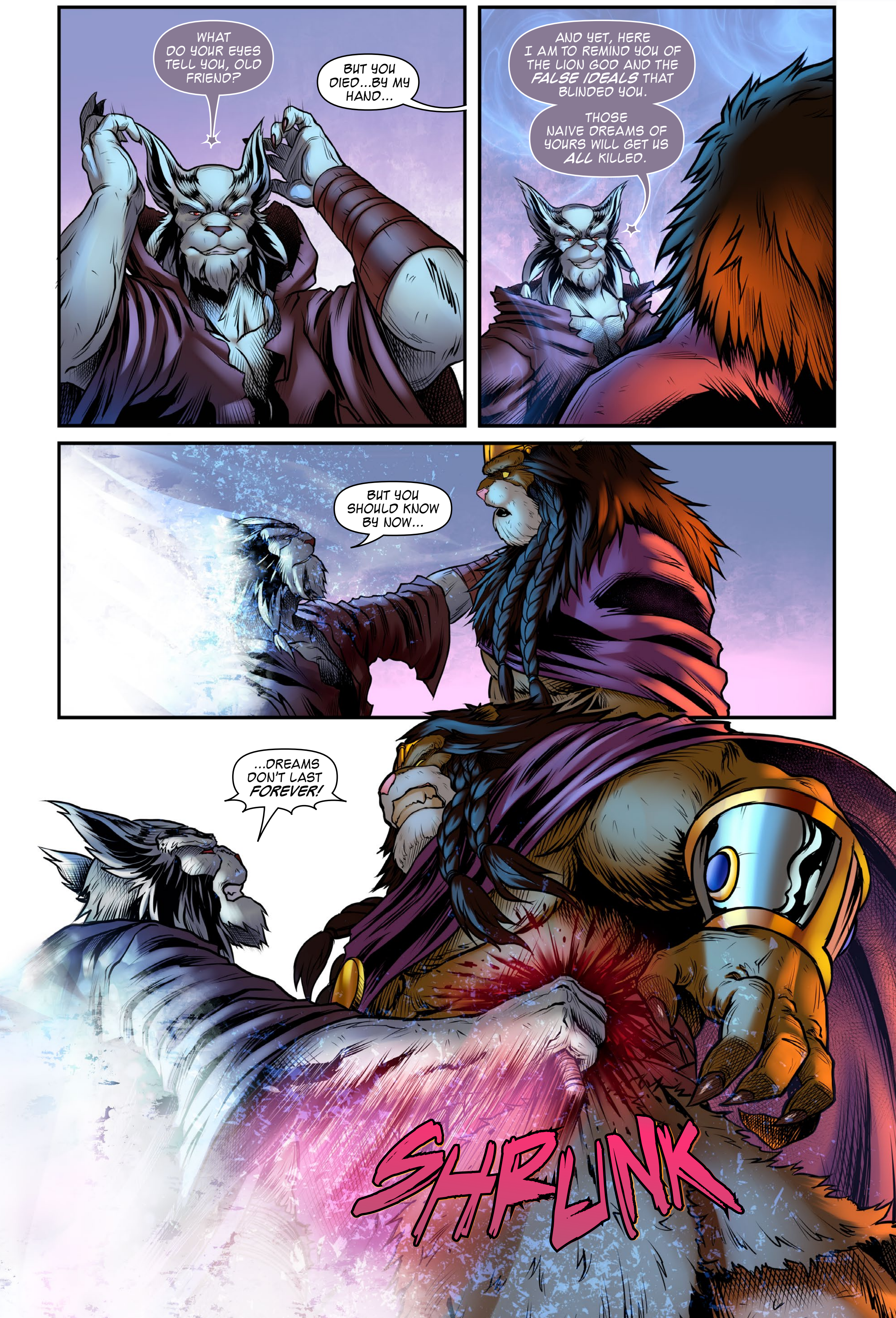

AH.
TRUST THE LION GOD...
...LIKE YOU ALWAYS HAVE.
BUT... HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE?
SAVE YOUR QUESTIONS FOR KING ERAMAD.
HE AWAITS YOU BY THE ANDALIAN TREE.

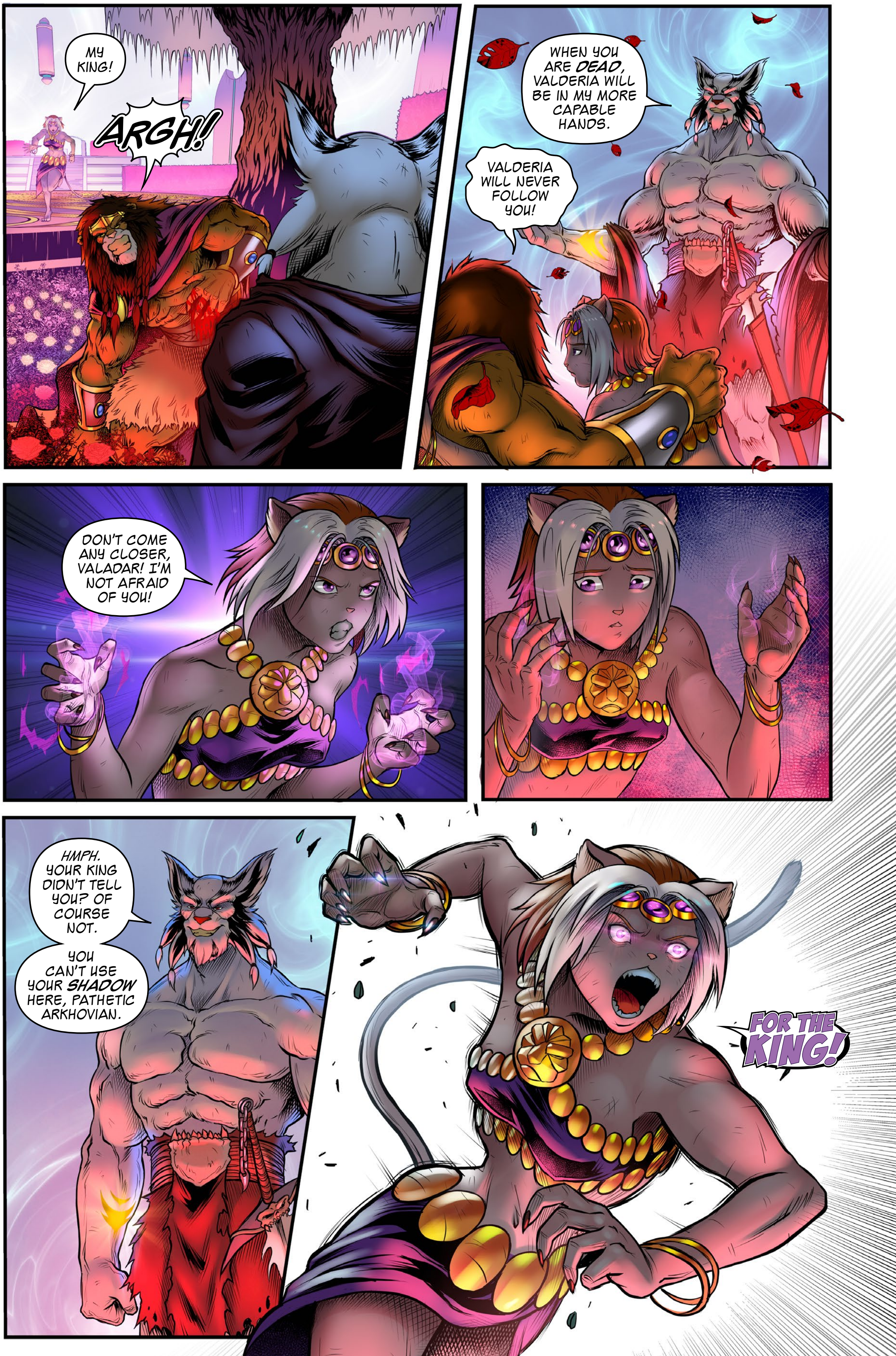

I WILL COMMUNE WITH THE ORACLE TO GIVE YOU BOTH TIME TO DISCUSS YOUR *BLESSING* FROM THE LION GOD.

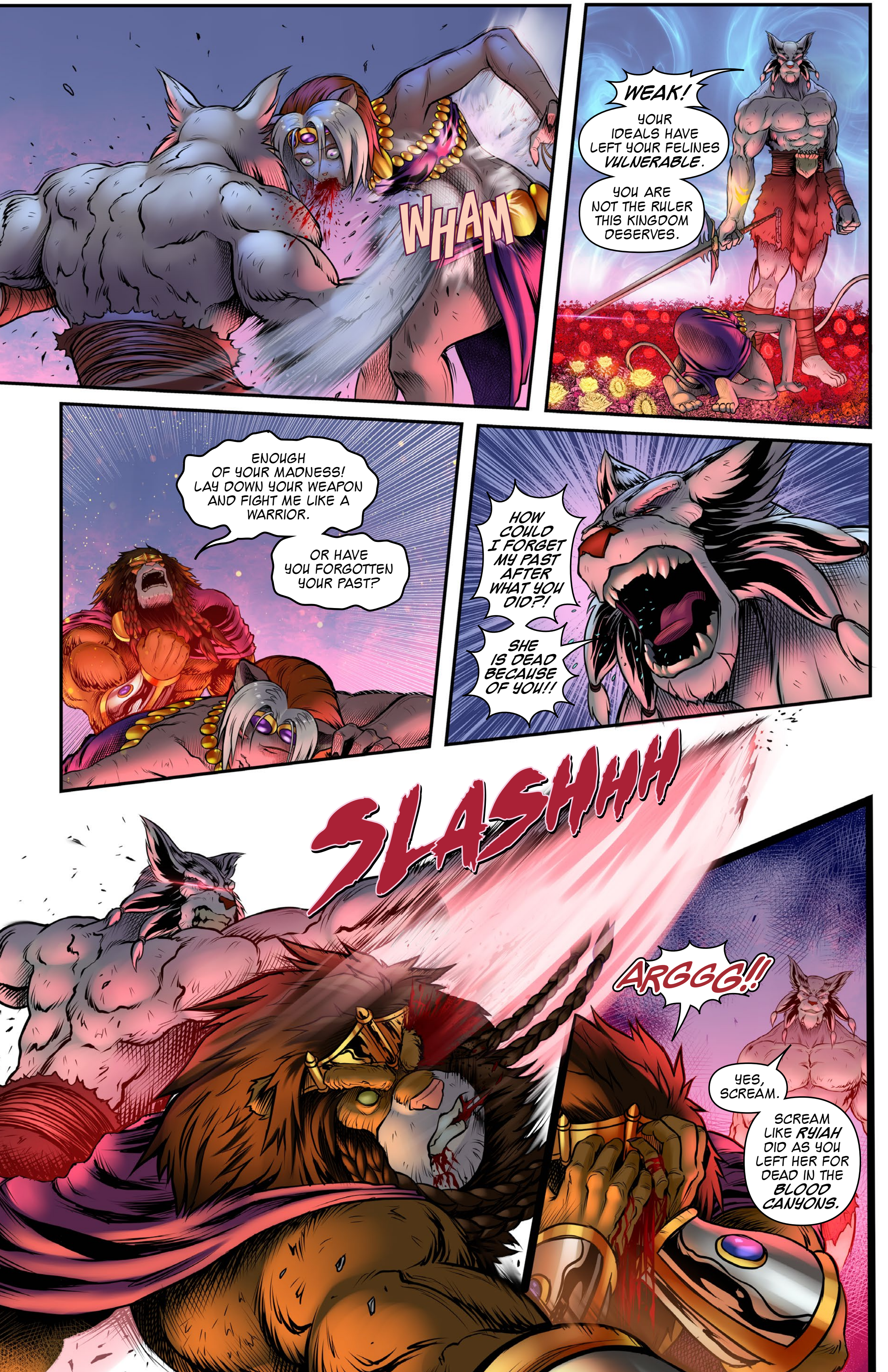

MANY FELINES SPEND THEIR ENTIRE LIVES DREAMING OF WHAT THE GARDENS OF SOLITUDE LOOK LIKE.
ONLY THROUGH BALLADS AND TALES CAN THEIR IMAGINATIONS GRASP THE TRUE BEAUTY OF THIS *HOLY* PLACE.
SOME ARE EVEN DESPERATE ENOUGH TO TRY AND SNEAK PAST THE *MOON WARRIORS.*
MY KING, I DON'T UNDERSTAND...WHY AM I ALLOWED INTO THE GARDENS?
ONLY THOSE WITH A *DIRECT CONNECTION* TO THE LION GOD MAY ENTER...

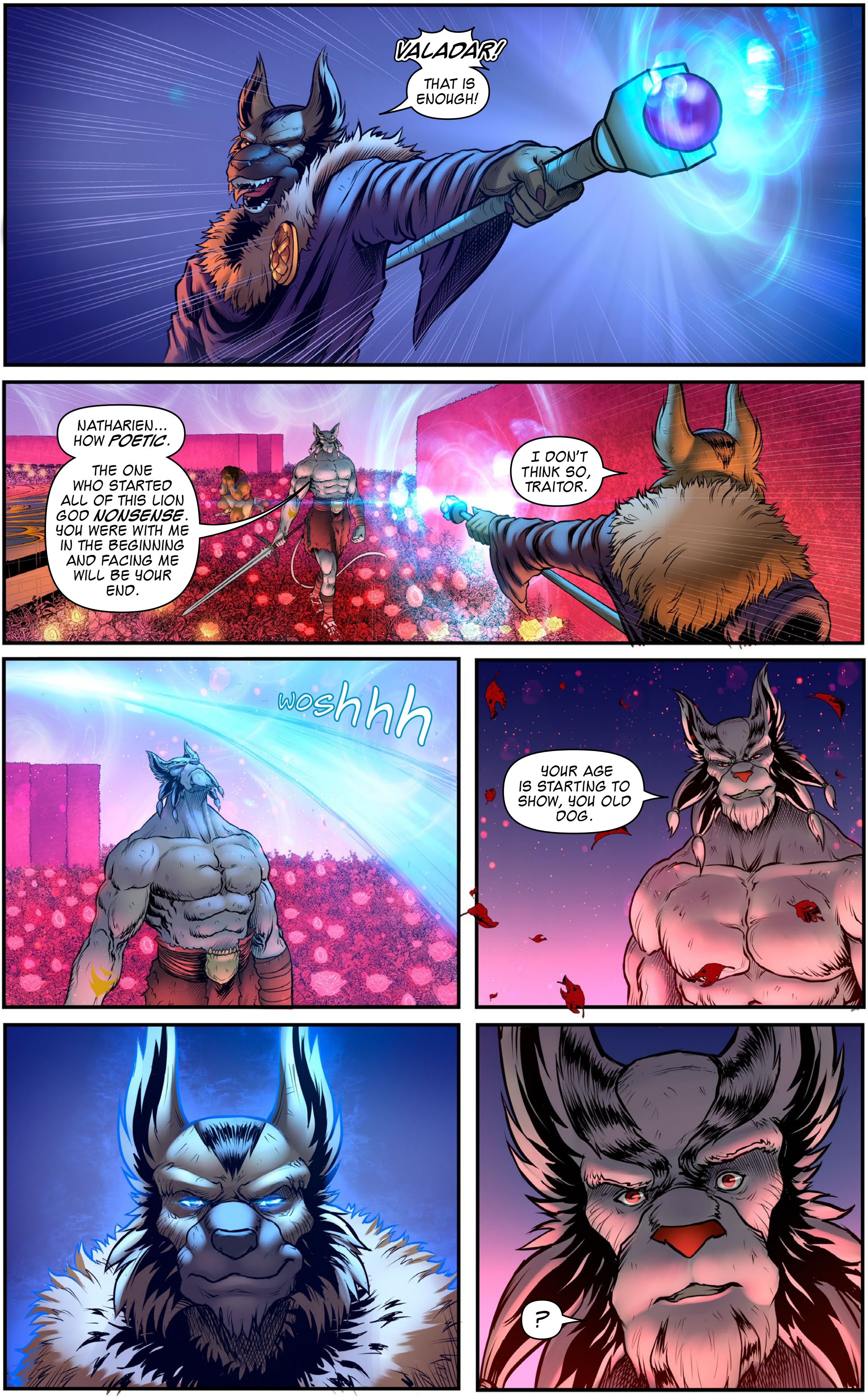

CENTURIES AGO, ERAMAD SOUGHT TO *RETURN* THE POWER OF THE MARK TO THE LION GOD. BUT HE FAILED AND PIECES OF THE MARK FOUND THEIR WAY INTO HIS ***ADVISORS.***
KNOWING THAT EVEN A SMALL PIECE OF THE MARK WAS TOO STRONG FOR ANY FELINE TO WIELD, HE ORDERED HIS ADVISORS TO NEVER FATHER ANY OFFSPRING IN AN EFFORT TO DESTROY IT.
FOR THE LONGEST TIME, WE BELIEVED THAT THE MARK ONLY LIVED ON AMONG THE ERAMADS...
BUT HIS ARKOVIAN ADVISOR, VALAN, BROKE THE OATH AND ***YOU*** ARE HIS DESCENDANT.
HE PASSED ON A PIECE OF HIS MARK TO YOU.
MY KING, I HAD NO IDEA. YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE ME!
OF COURSE, VAELA. THIS IS THE WILL OF THE LION GOD.
WHAT CONCERNS ME NOW IS ***HOW*** YOU USE THE MARK.
SIRE?
YOU HAVE THE ***MARK*** AND I HAVE THE ***MANE***.
NOW, WE MUST PROTECT ONE ANOTHER.
TOGETHER WE WILL USE OUR POWER FOR THE GOOD OF VALDERIA.
WE WILL FIGHT THOSE WHO OPPOSE THE MANDATES OF THE LION GOD--
FALSE KING OF VALDERIA!

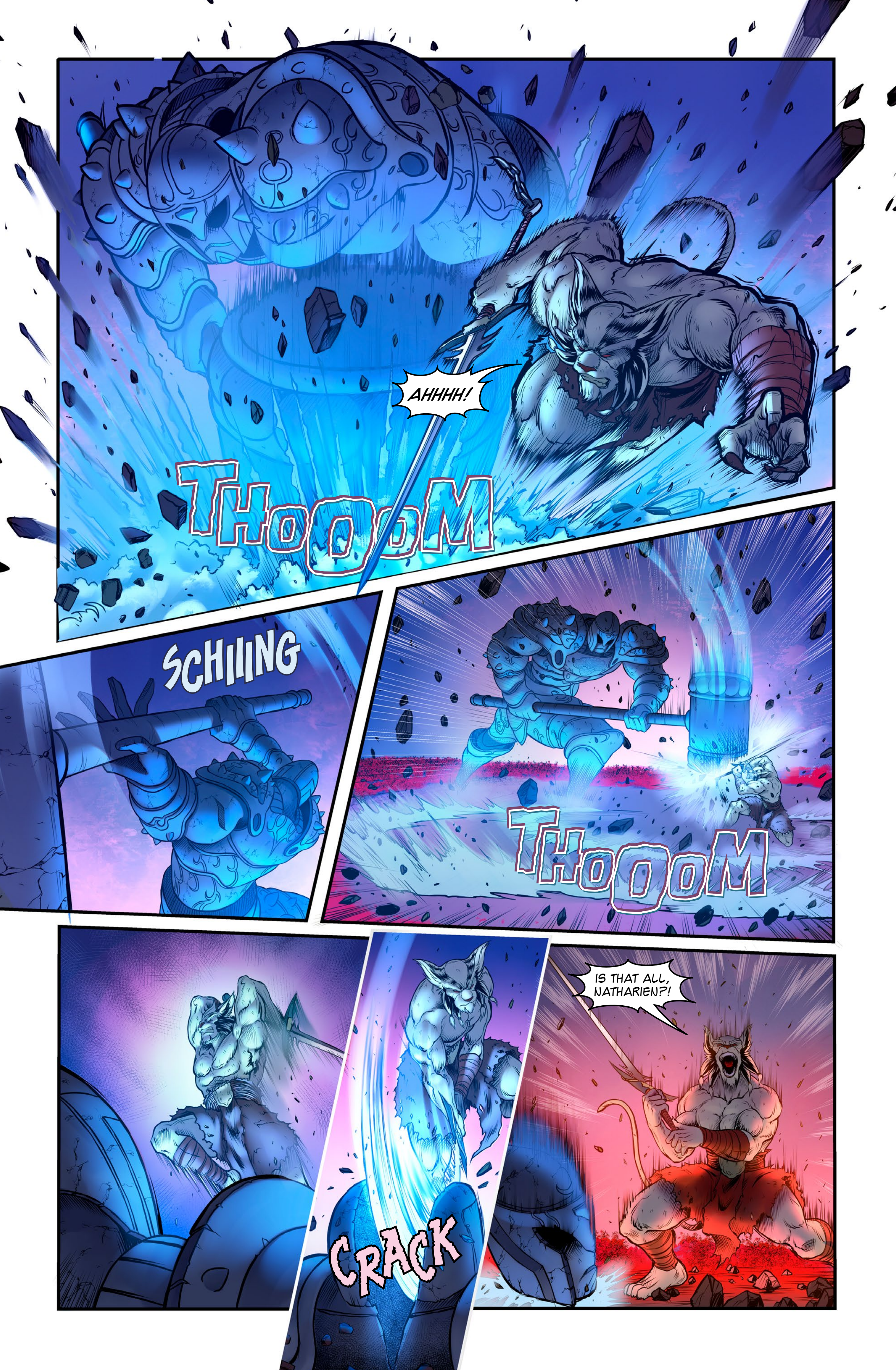

VAELA, STAY HERE.
CHOOSE YOUR NEXT WORDS CAREFULLY, STRANGER.
WHO DO YOU TH--
STILL HIDING BEHIND *INVISIBLE* WALLS, I SEE.
IT CAN'T BE! THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE!

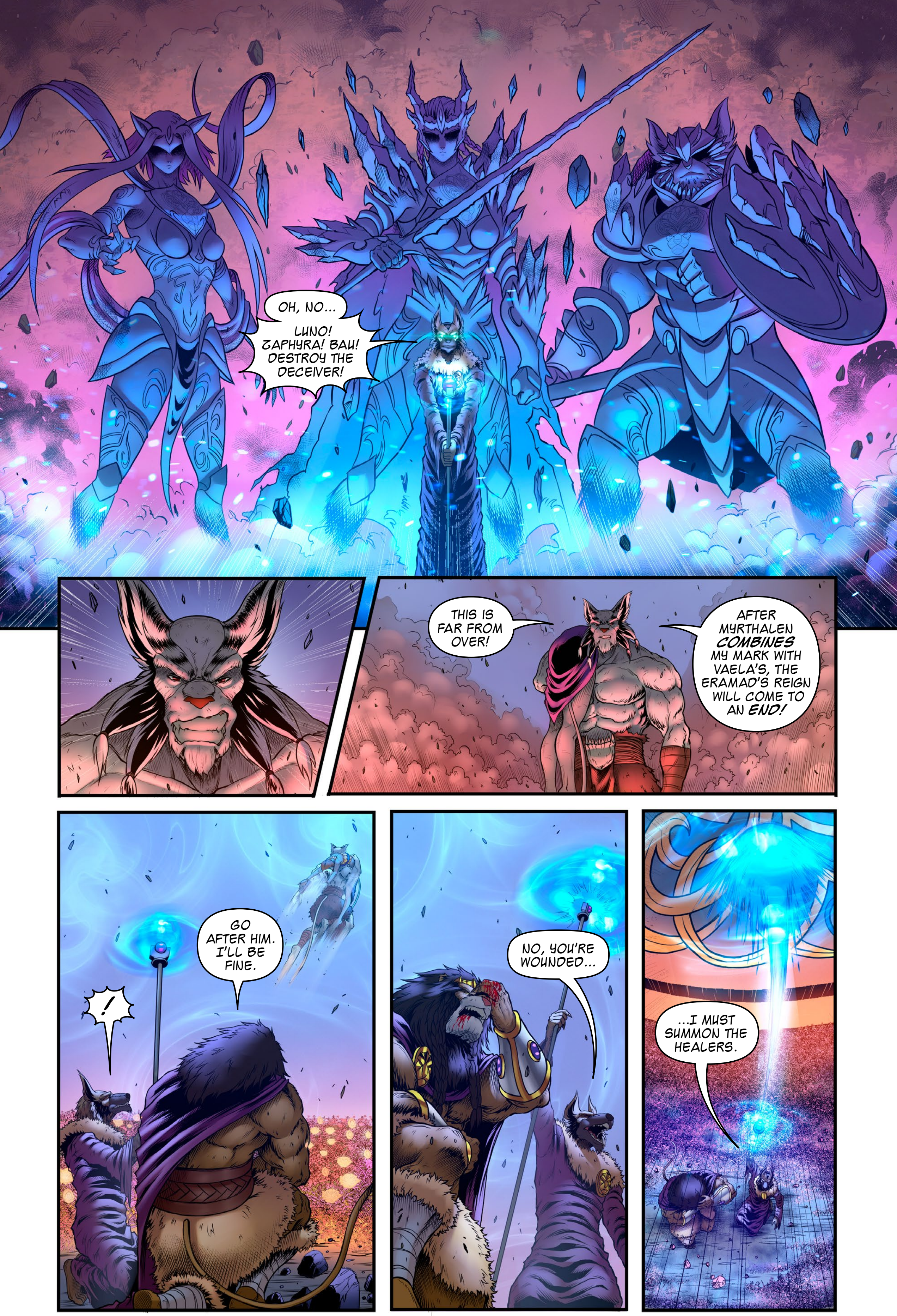

WHAT DO YOUR EYES TELL YOU, OLD FRIEND?
BUT YOU DIED...BY MY HAND...
AND YET, HERE I AM TO REMIND YOU OF THE LION GOD AND THE *FALSE IDEALS* THAT BLINDED YOU.
THOSE NAIVE DREAMS OF YOURS WILL GET US *ALL* KILLED.
BUT YOU SHOULD KNOW BY NOW...
...DREAMS DON'T LAST *FOREVER!*
SHRUNK

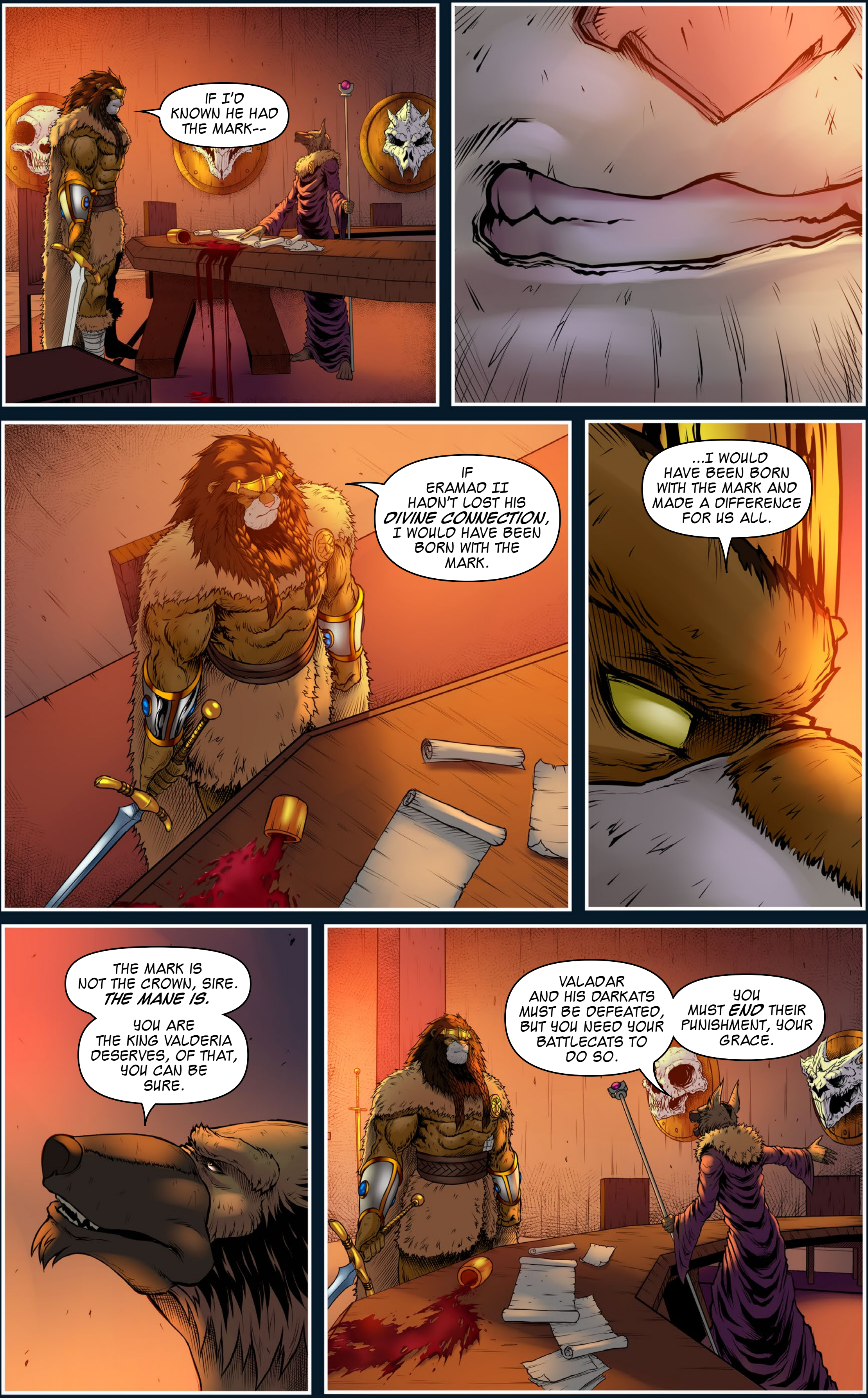

MY KING!
ARGH!
WHEN YOU ARE *DEAD*, VALDERIA WILL BE IN MY MORE CAPABLE HANDS.
VALDERIA WILL NEVER FOLLOW YOU!
DON'T COME ANY CLOSER, VALADAR! I'M NOT AFRAID OF YOU!
HMPH. YOUR KING DIDN'T TELL YOU? OF COURSE NOT.
YOU CAN'T USE YOUR *SHADOW* HERE, PATHETIC ARKHOVIAN.
FOR THE KING!

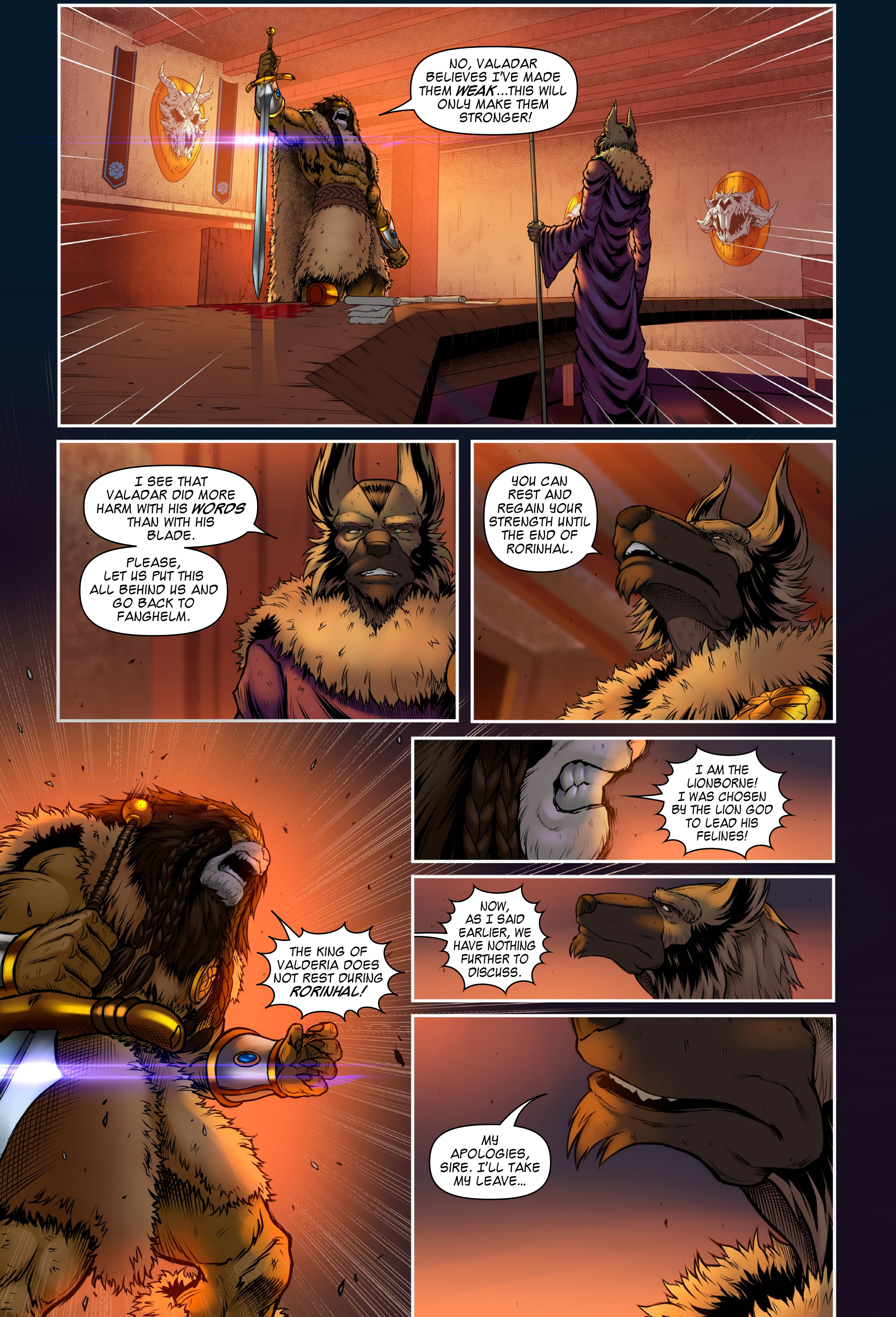

WHAM
WEAK!
YOUR IDEALS HAVE LEFT YOUR FELINES VULNERABLE.
YOU ARE NOT THE RULER THIS KINGDOM DESERVES.
ENOUGH OF YOUR MADNESS! LAY DOWN YOUR WEAPON AND FIGHT ME LIKE A WARRIOR.
OR HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN YOUR PAST?
HOW COULD I FORGET MY PAST AFTER WHAT YOU DID?!
SHE IS DEAD BECAUSE OF YOU!!
SLASHHH
ARGGG!!
YES, SCREAM.
SCREAM LIKE RYIAH DID AS YOU LEFT HER FOR DEAD IN THE BLOOD CANYONS.

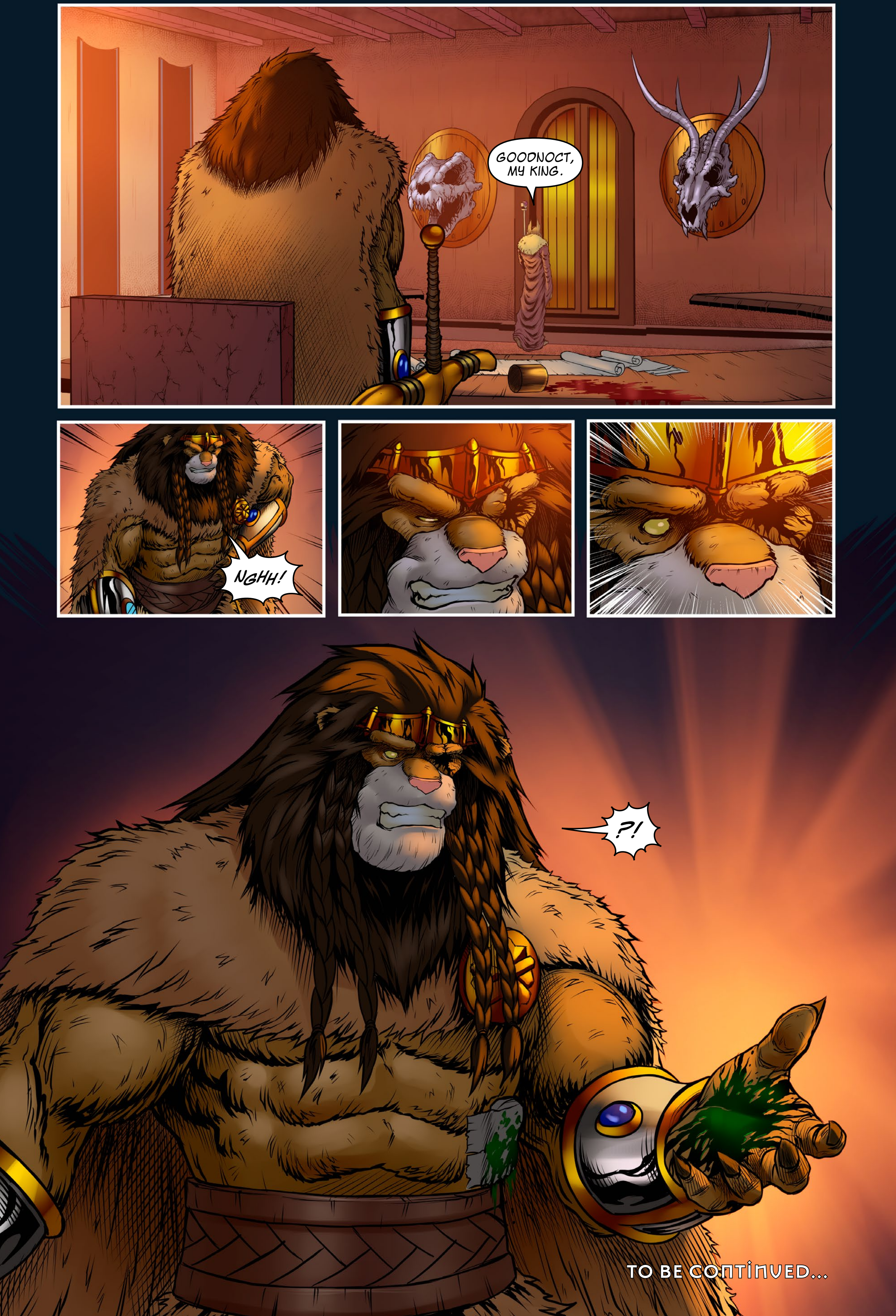

VALADAR!
THAT IS ENOUGH!
NATHARIEN... HOW *POETIC*.
THE ONE WHO STARTED ALL OF THIS LION GOD ***NONSENSE***. YOU WERE WITH ME IN THE BEGINNING AND FACING ME WILL BE YOUR END.
I DON'T THINK SO, TRAITOR.
woshhhh
YOUR AGE IS STARTING TO SHOW, YOU OLD DOG.
?


AHHHH!
THOOOM
SCHIIING
THOOOM
CRACK
IS THAT ALL, NATHARIEN?!


OH, NO...
LUNO! ZAPHYRA! BAU! DESTROY THE DECEIVER!
THIS IS FAR FROM OVER!
AFTER MYRTHALEN COMBINES MY MARK WITH VAELA'S, THE ERAMAD'S REIGN WILL COME TO AN END!
!
GO AFTER HIM. I'LL BE FINE.
NO, YOU'RE WOUNDED...
...I MUST SUMMON THE HEALERS.


IF I'D KNOWN HE HAD THE MARK--
IF ERAMAD II HADN'T LOST HIS *DIVINE CONNECTION*, I WOULD HAVE BEEN BORN WITH THE MARK.
...I WOULD HAVE BEEN BORN WITH THE MARK AND MADE A DIFFERENCE FOR US ALL.
THE MARK IS NOT THE CROWN, SIRE. *THE MANE IS.*
YOU ARE THE KING VALDERIA DESERVES, OF THAT, YOU CAN BE SURE.
VALADAR AND HIS DARKATS MUST BE DEFEATED, BUT YOU NEED YOUR BATTLECATS TO DO SO.
YOU MUST *END* THEIR PUNISHMENT, YOUR GRACE.


NO, VALADAR BELIEVES I'VE MADE THEM *WEAK*...THIS WILL ONLY MAKE THEM STRONGER!
I SEE THAT VALADAR DID MORE HARM WITH HIS *WORDS* THAN WITH HIS BLADE.
PLEASE, LET US PUT THIS ALL BEHIND US AND GO BACK TO FANGHELM.
YOU CAN REST AND REGAIN YOUR STRENGTH UNTIL THE END OF RORINHAL.
THE KING OF VALDERIA DOES NOT REST DURING *RORINHAL!*
I AM THE LIONBORNE! I WAS CHOSEN BY THE LION GOD TO LEAD HIS FELINES!
NOW, AS I SAID EARLIER, WE HAVE NOTHING FURTHER TO DISCUSS.
MY APOLOGIES, SIRE. I'LL TAKE MY LEAVE...

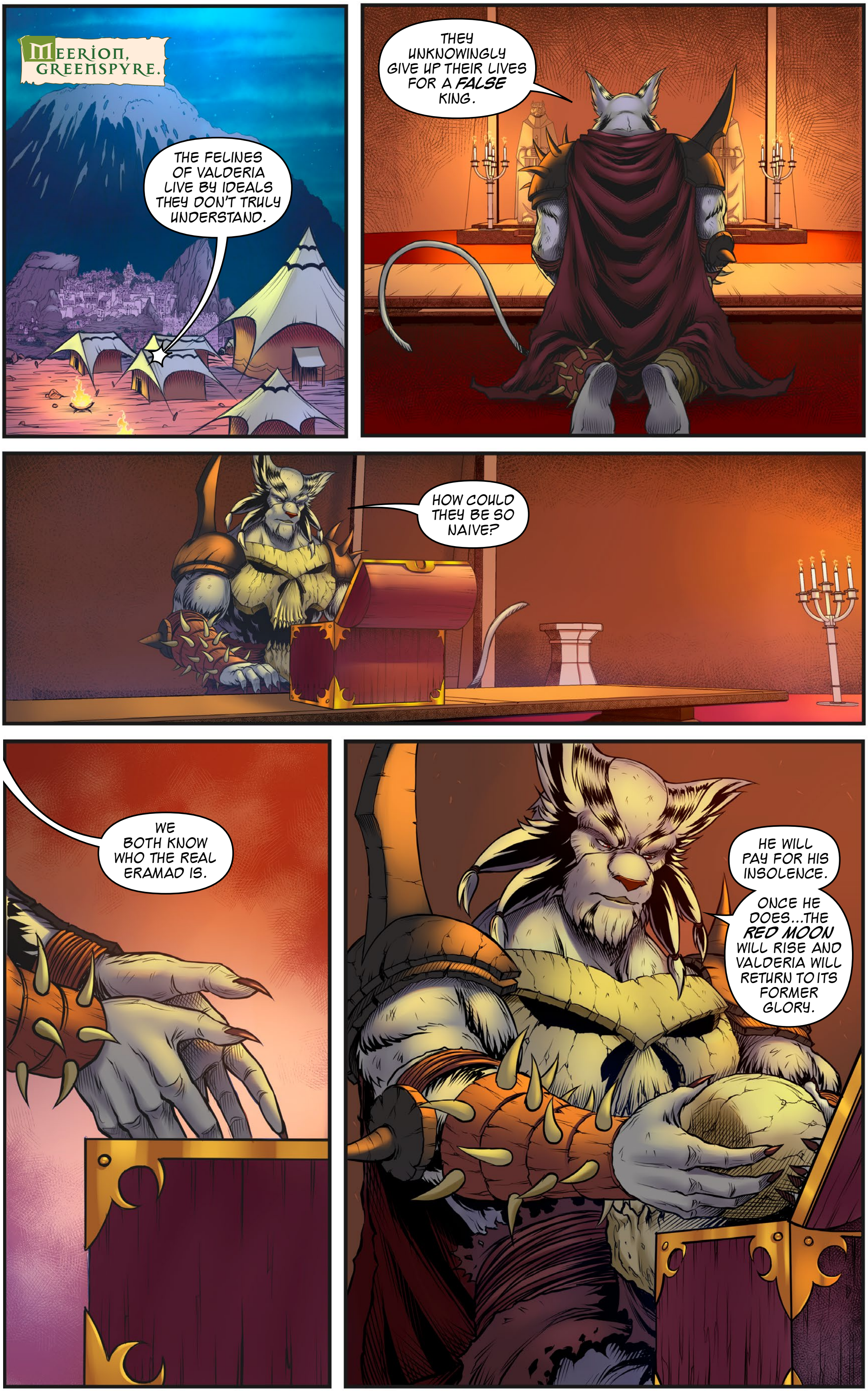

GOODNOCT, MY KING.
NGHH!
?!
TO BE CONTINUED...

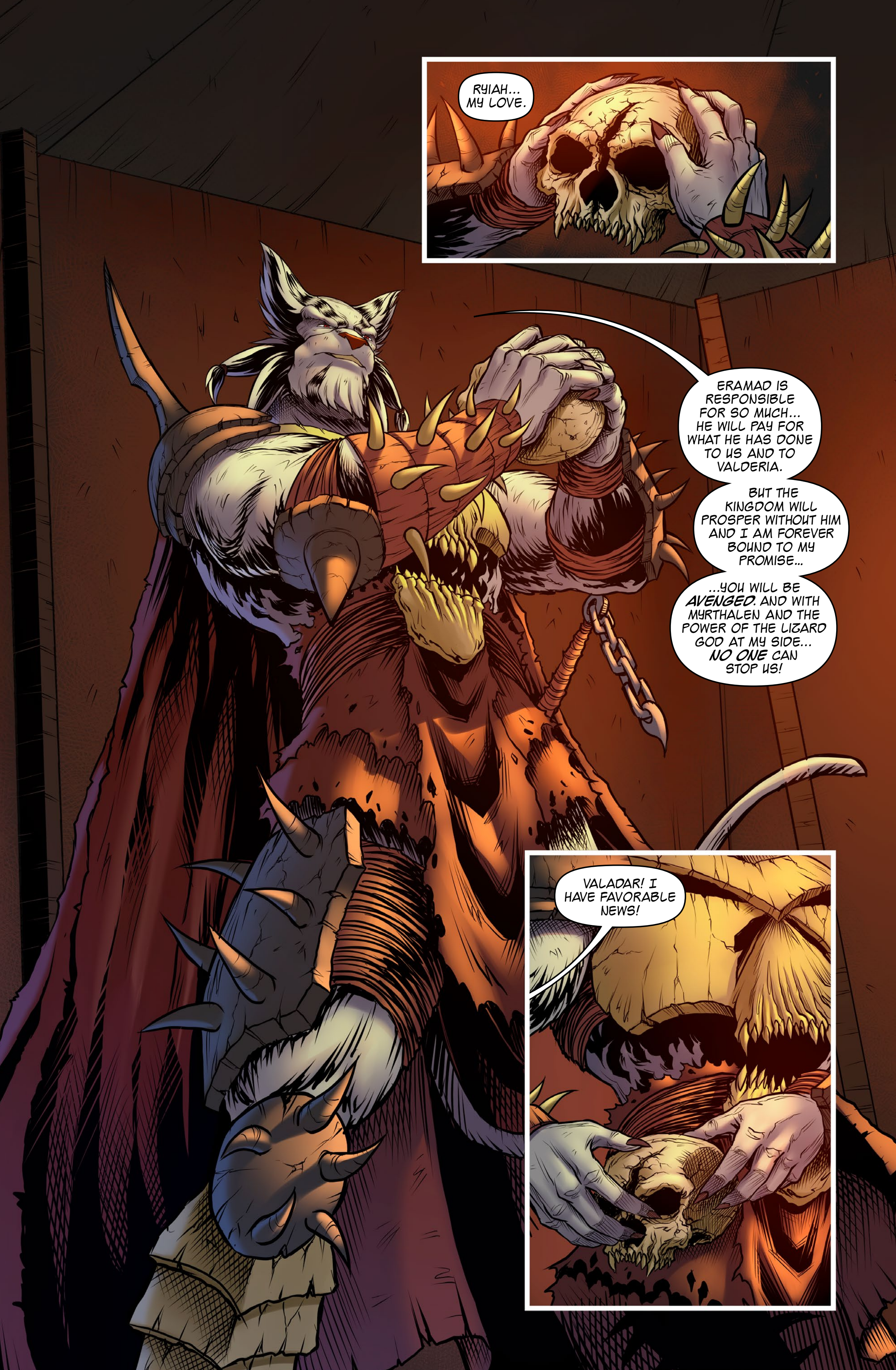
THE LINK

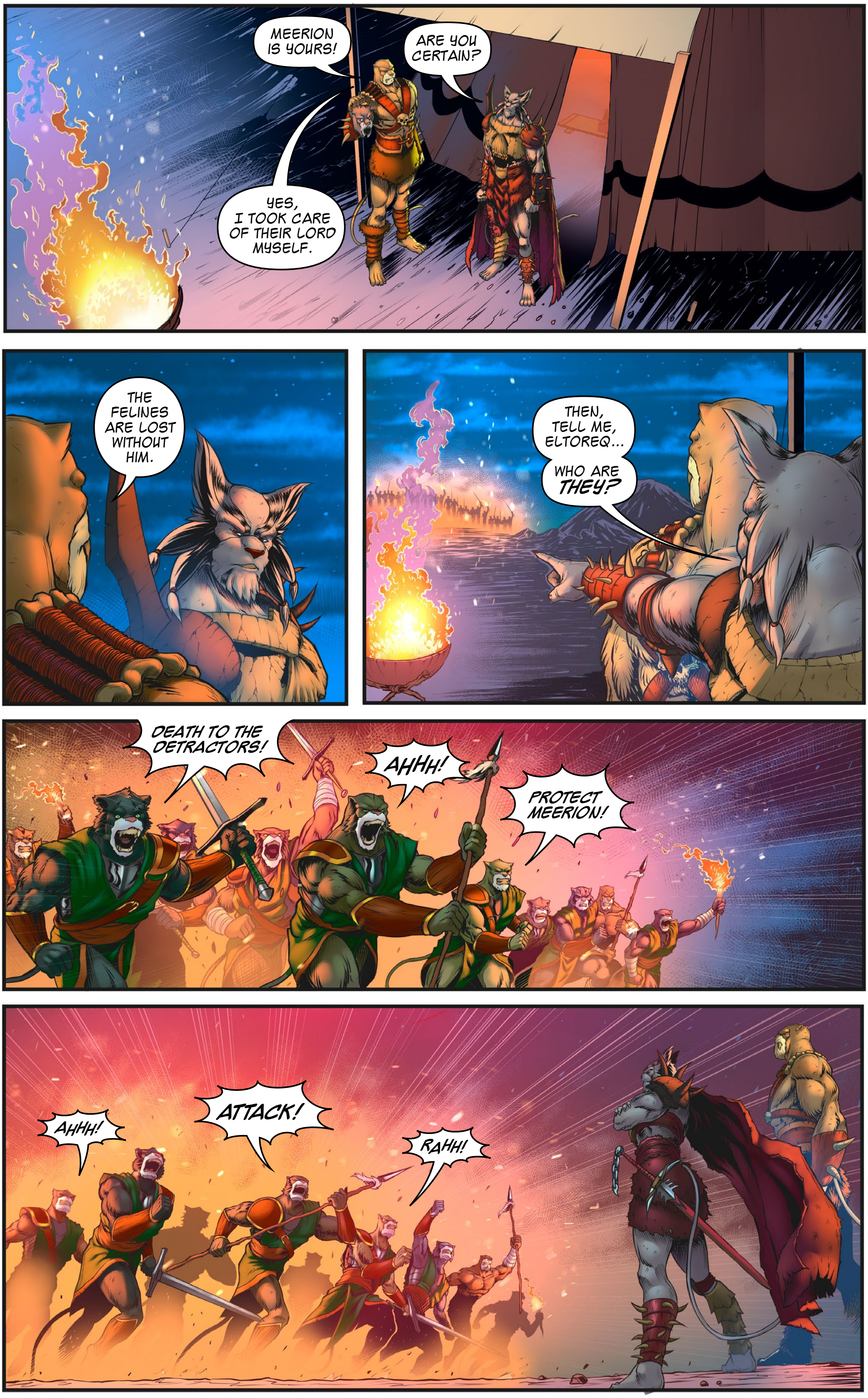
3

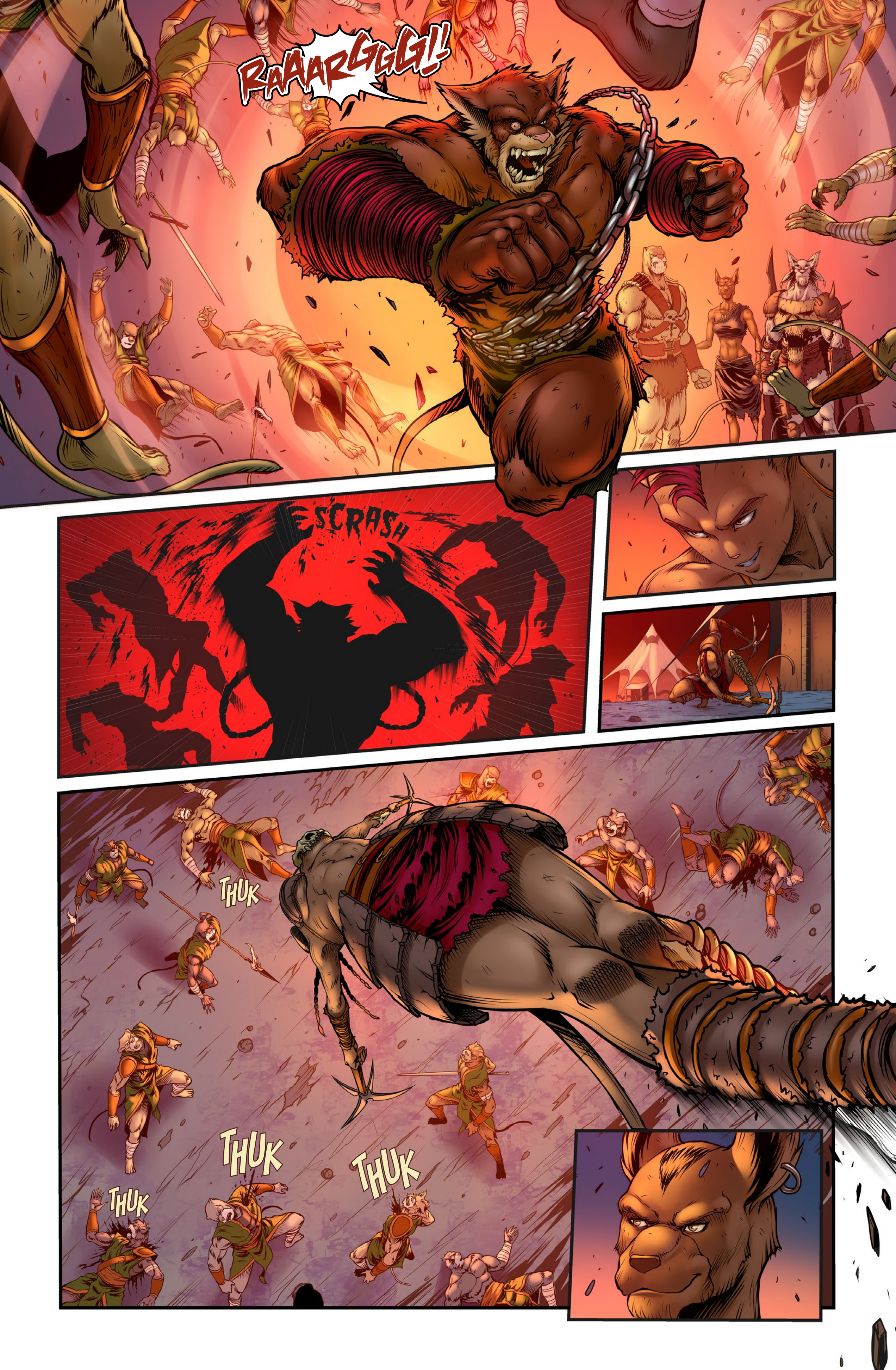
Chapter Three

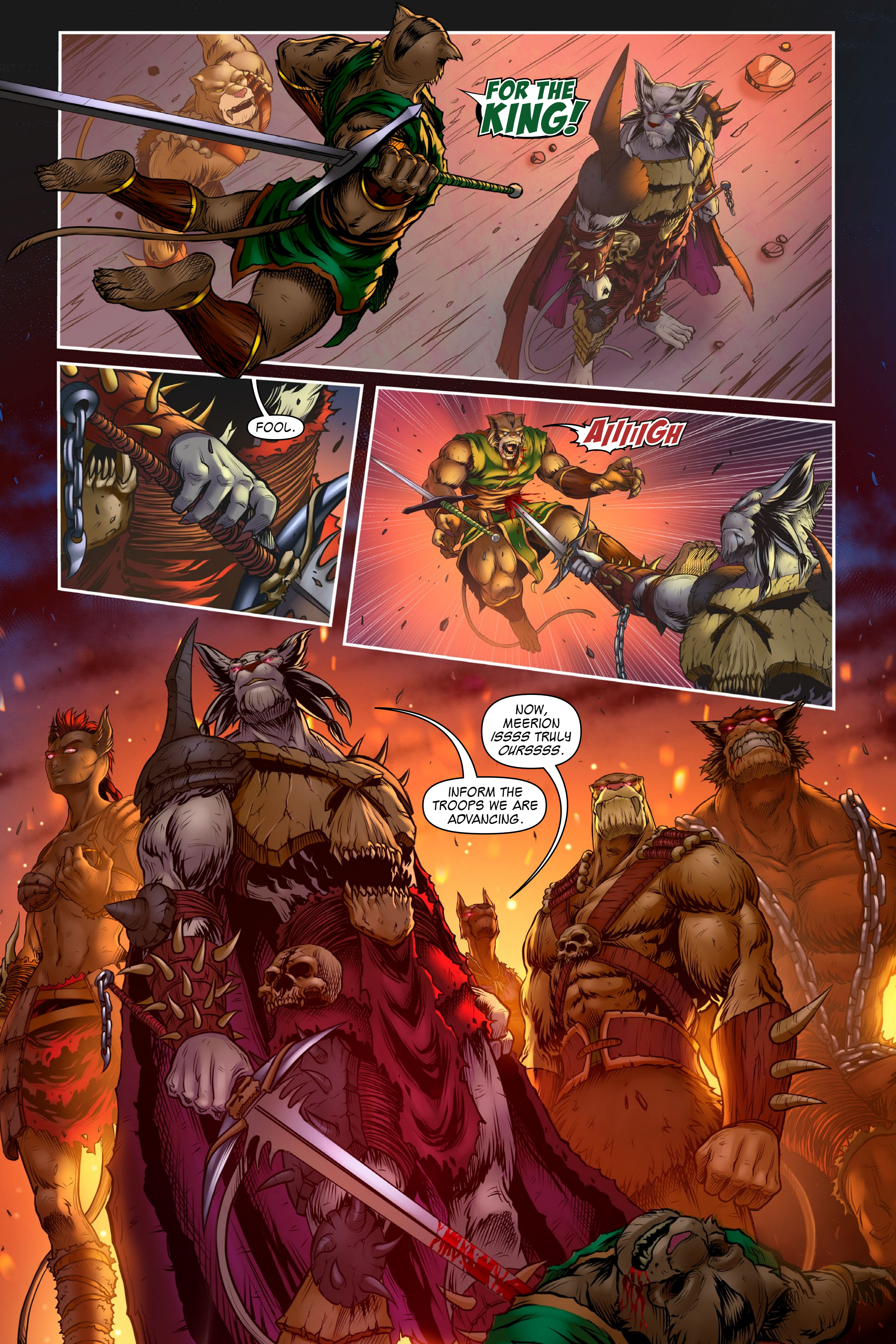
Tekino
Mike Cumeto

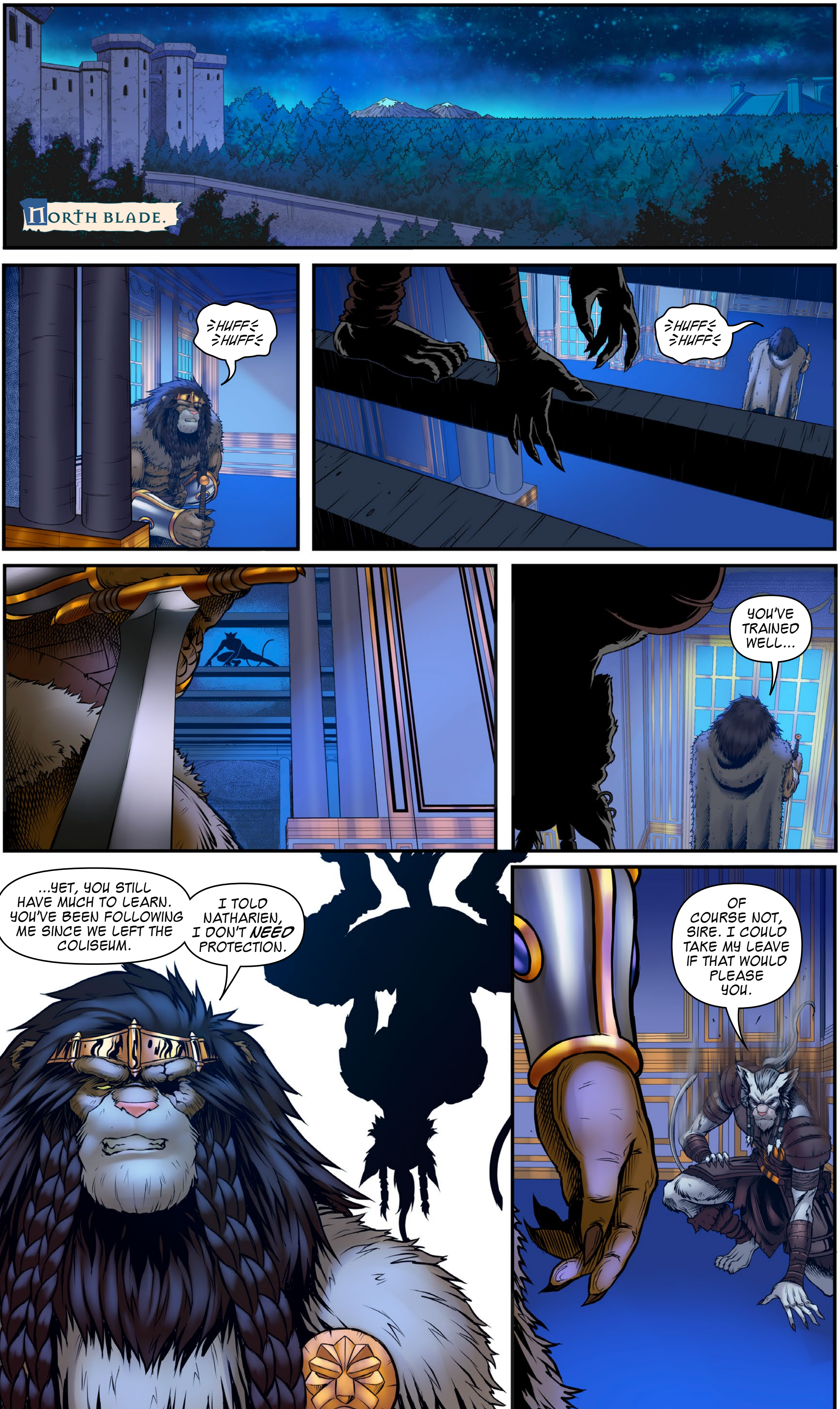

MEERION, GREENSPYRE.
THE FELINES OF VALDERIA LIVE BY IDEALS THEY DON'T TRULY UNDERSTAND.
THEY UNKNOWINGLY GIVE UP THEIR LIVES FOR A *FALSE* KING.
HOW COULD THEY BE SO NAIVE?
WE BOTH KNOW WHO THE REAL ERAMAD IS.
HE WILL PAY FOR HIS INSOLENCE.
ONCE HE DOES...THE ***RED MOON*** WILL RISE AND VALDERIA WILL RETURN TO ITS FORMER GLORY.

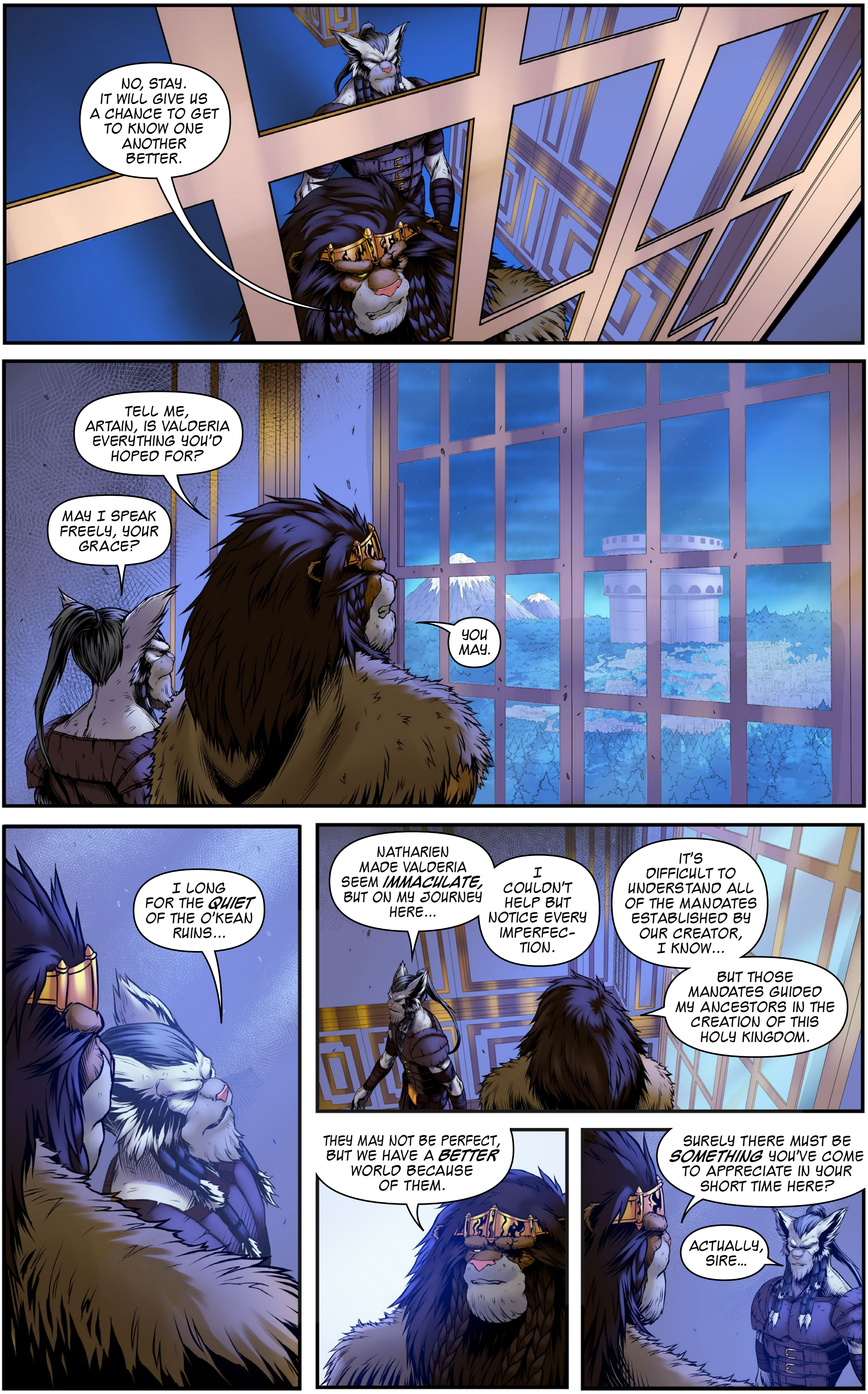

RYIAH... MY LOVE.
ERAMAD IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SO MUCH... HE WILL PAY FOR WHAT HE HAS DONE TO US AND TO VALDERIA.
BUT THE KINGDOM WILL PROSPER WITHOUT HIM AND I AM FOREVER BOUND TO MY PROMISE...
...YOU WILL BE ***AVENGED.*** AND WITH MYRTHALEN AND THE POWER OF THE LIZARD GOD AT MY SIDE... ***NO ONE*** CAN STOP US!
VALADAR! I HAVE FAVORABLE NEWS!

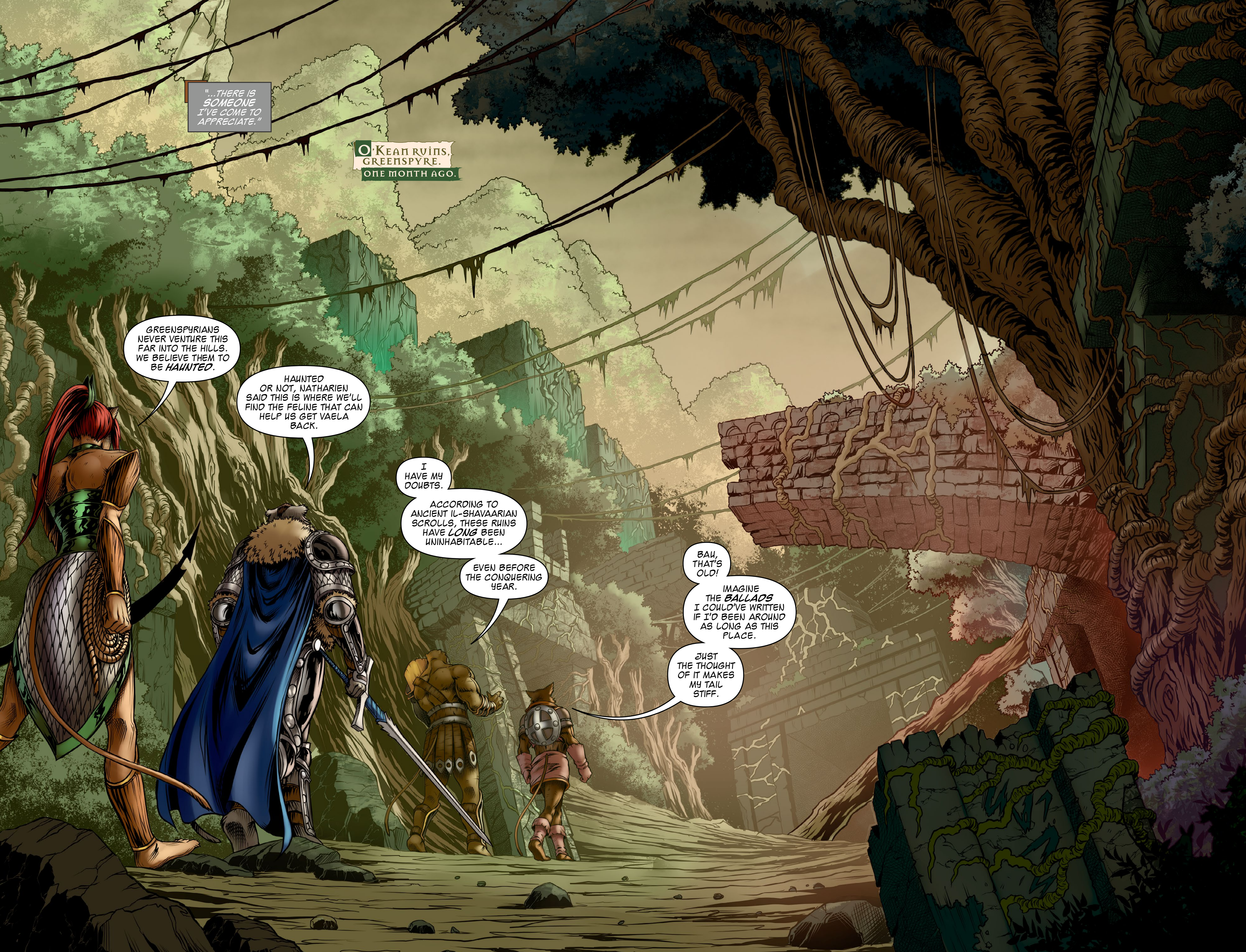

MEERION IS YOURS!
ARE YOU CERTAIN?
YES, I TOOK CARE OF THEIR LORD MYSELF.
THE FELINES ARE LOST WITHOUT HIM.
THEN, TELL ME, ELTOREQ...
WHO ARE *THEY?*
DEATH TO THE DETRACTORS!
AHHH!
PROTECT MEERION!
AHHH!
ATTACK!
RAHH!

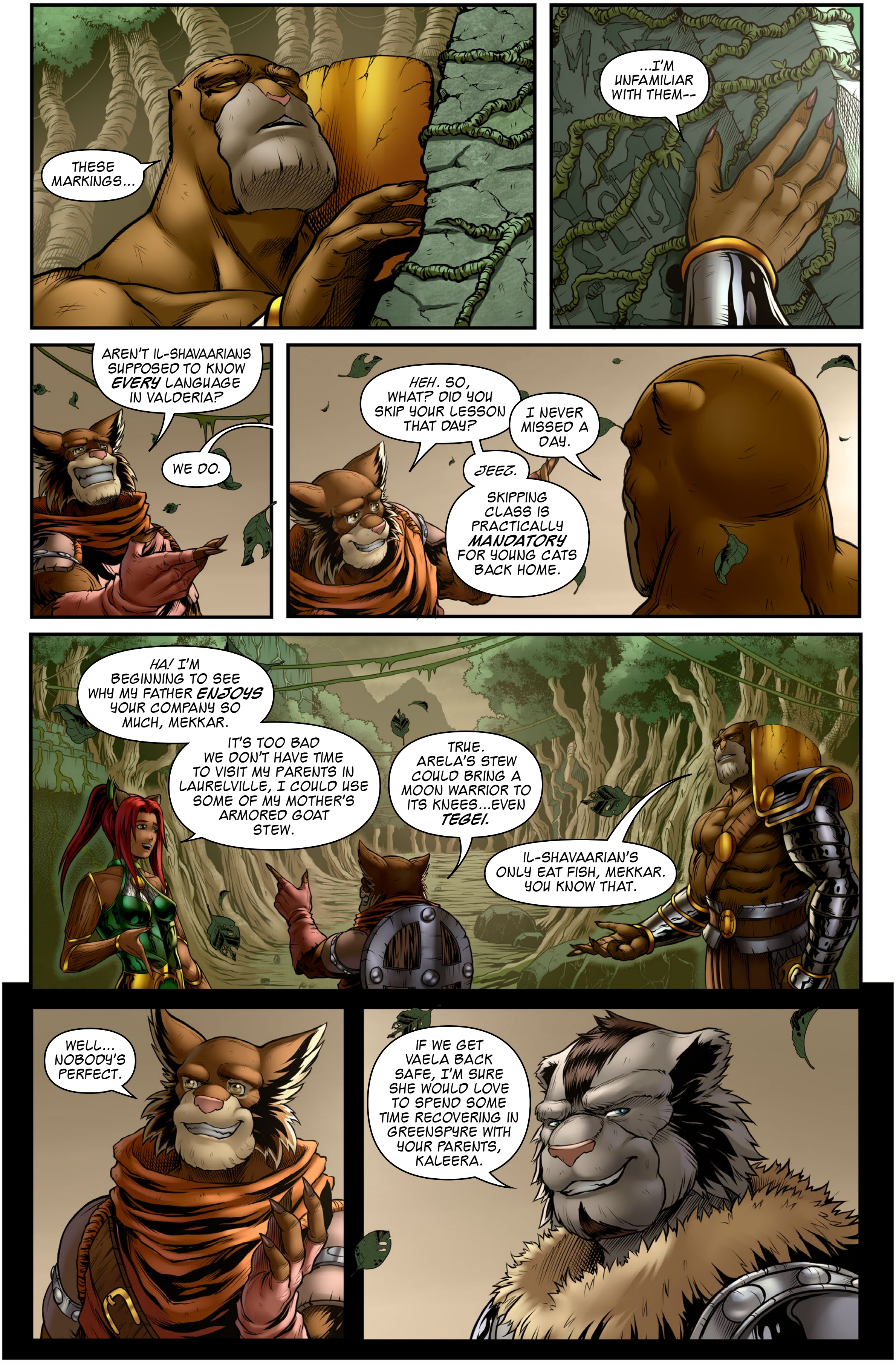

RAAARGGG!!
SCRASH
THUK
THUK
THUK
THUK

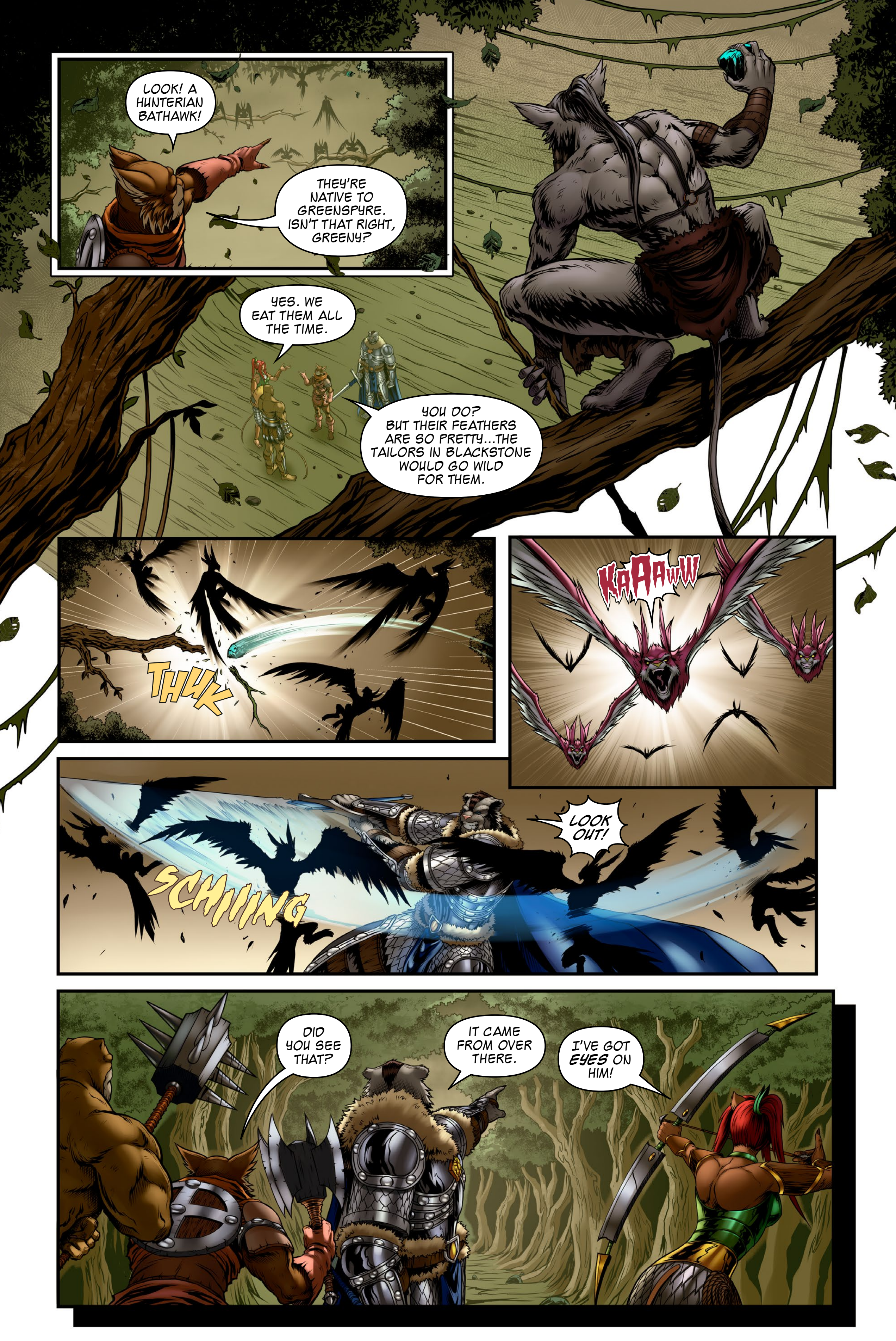

FOR THE KING!
FOOL.
AIIIIGH
NOW, MEERION ISSSS TRULY OURSSSS.
INFORM THE TROOPS WE ARE ADVANCING.

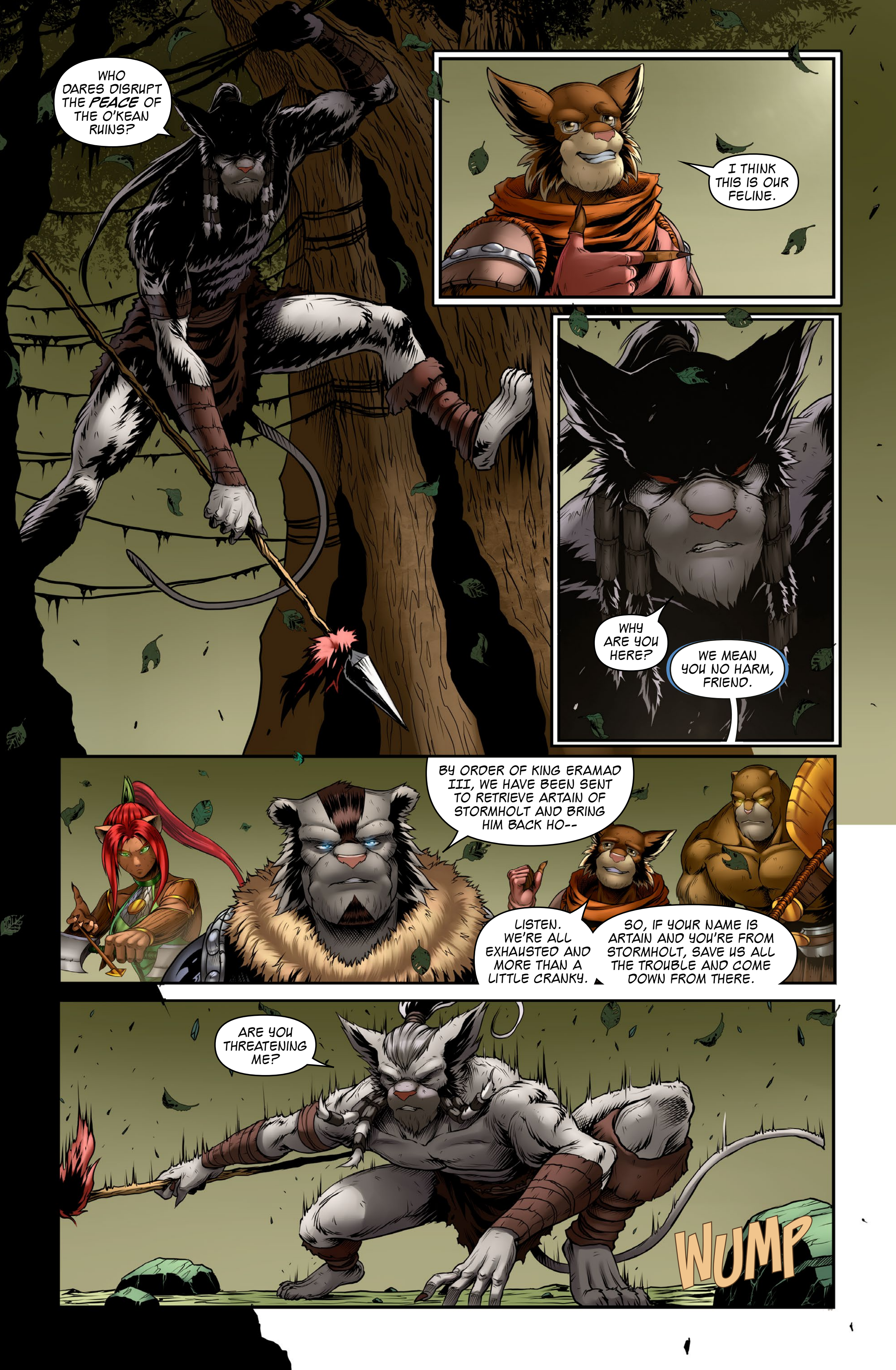

NORTH BLADE.
≥HUFF≤ ≥HUFF≤
≥HUFF≤ ≥HUFF≤
YOU'VE TRAINED WELL...
...YET, YOU STILL HAVE MUCH TO LEARN. YOU'VE BEEN FOLLOWING ME SINCE WE LEFT THE COLISEUM.
I TOLD NATHARIEN, I DON'T *NEED* PROTECTION.
OF COURSE NOT, SIRE. I COULD TAKE MY LEAVE IF THAT WOULD PLEASE YOU.

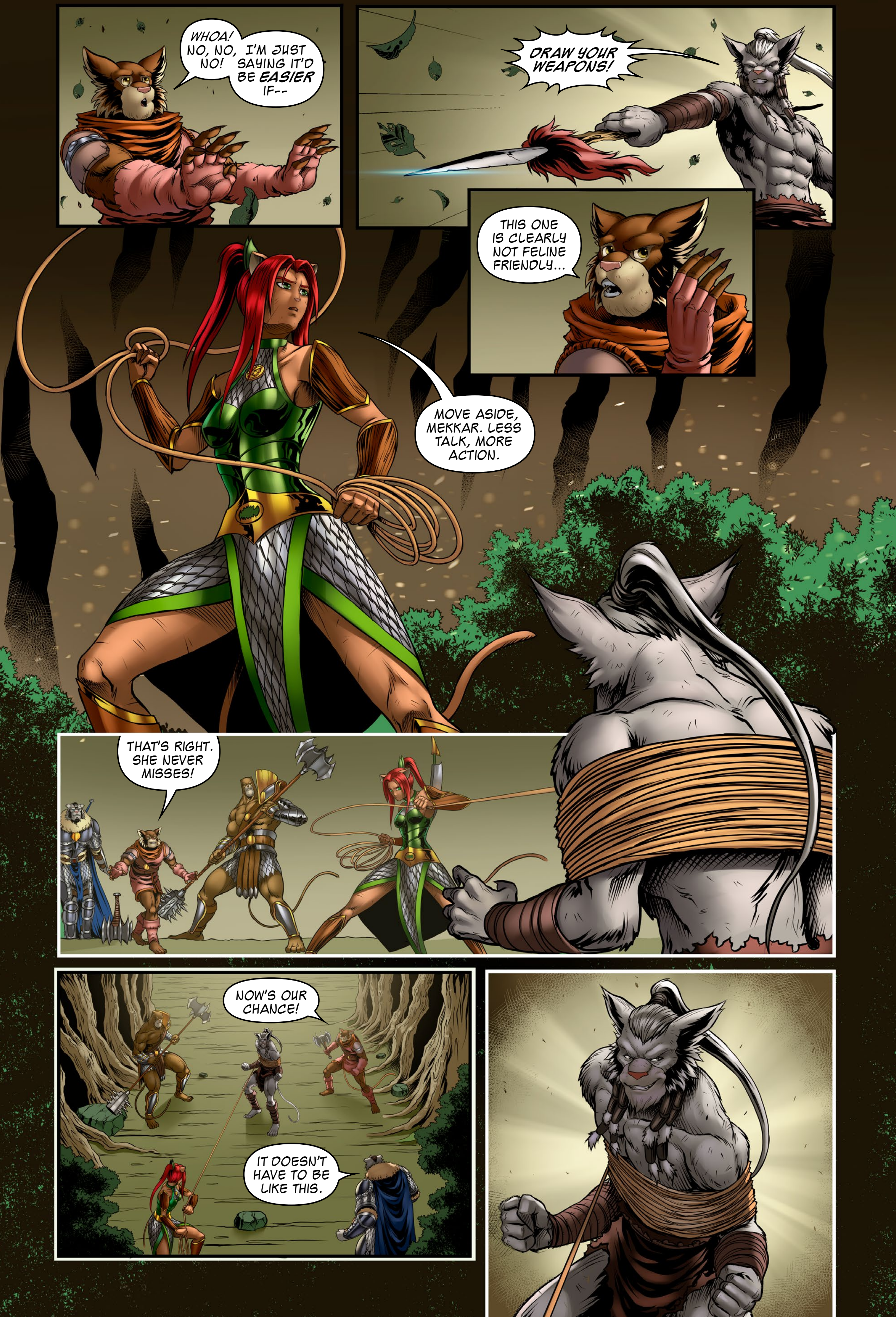

NO, STAY. IT WILL GIVE US A CHANCE TO GET TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER BETTER.
TELL ME, ARTAIN, IS VALDERIA EVERYTHING YOU'D HOPED FOR?
MAY I SPEAK FREELY, YOUR GRACE?
YOU MAY.
I LONG FOR THE *QUIET* OF THE O'KEAN RUINS...
NATHARIEN MADE VALDERIA SEEM *IMMACULATE,* BUT ON MY JOURNEY HERE...
I COULDN'T HELP BUT NOTICE EVERY IMPERFECTION.
IT'S DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND ALL OF THE MANDATES ESTABLISHED BY OUR CREATOR, I KNOW...
BUT THOSE MANDATES GUIDED MY ANCESTORS IN THE CREATION OF THIS HOLY KINGDOM.
THEY MAY NOT BE PERFECT, BUT WE HAVE A *BETTER* WORLD BECAUSE OF THEM.
SURELY THERE MUST BE *SOMETHING* YOU'VE COME TO APPRECIATE IN YOUR SHORT TIME HERE?
ACTUALLY, SIRE...

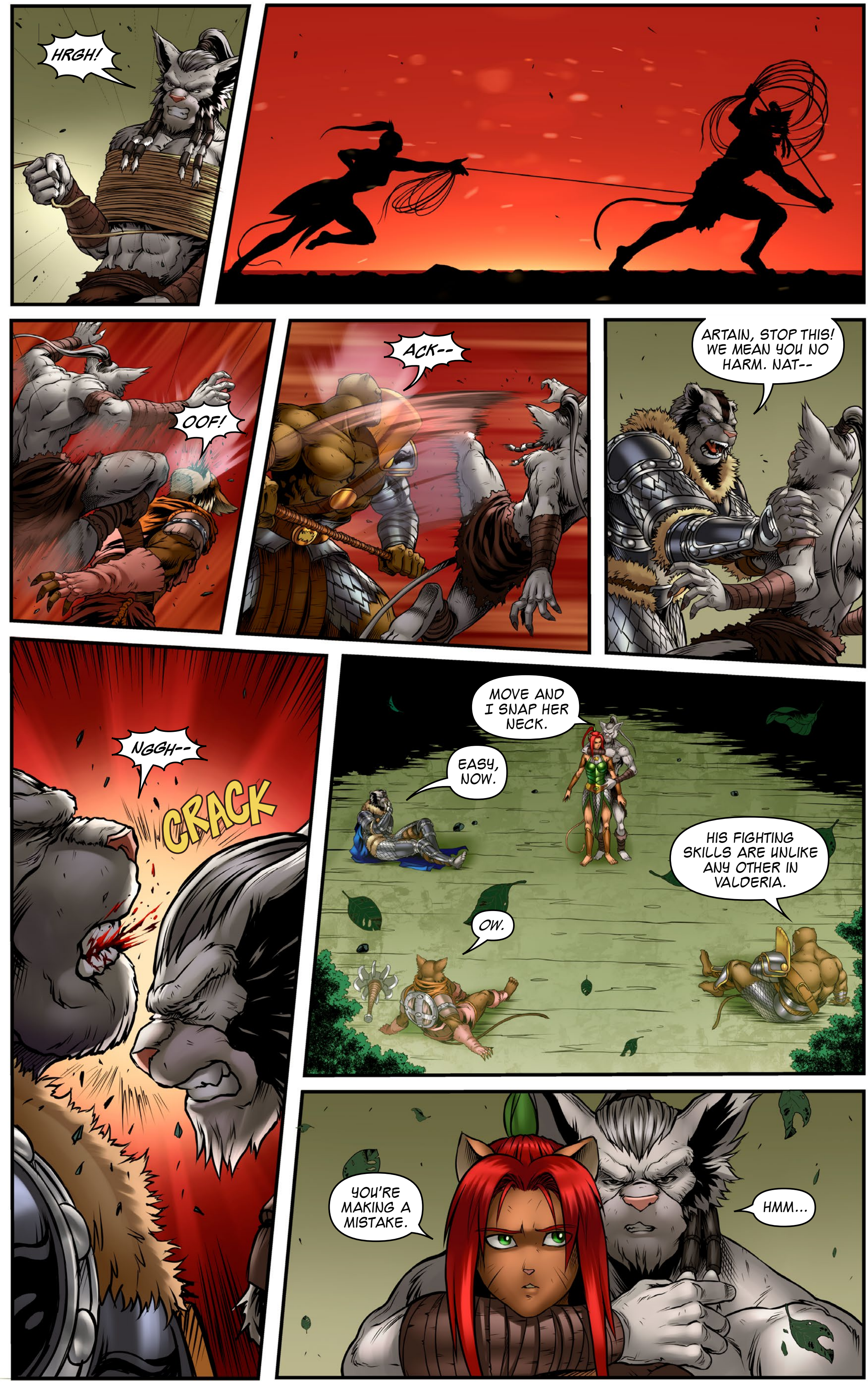

"...THERE IS SOMEONE I'VE COME TO APPRECIATE."
O'KEAN RUINS, GREENSPYRE.
ONE MONTH AGO.
GREENSPYRIANS NEVER VENTURE THIS FAR INTO THE HILLS. WE BELIEVE THEM TO BE HAUNTED.
HAUNTED OR NOT, NATHARIEN SAID THIS IS WHERE WE'LL FIND THE FELINE THAT CAN HELP US GET VAELA BACK.
I HAVE MY DOUBTS.
ACCORDING TO ANCIENT IL-SHAVAARIAN SCROLLS, THESE RUINS HAVE LONG BEEN UNINHABITABLE...
EVEN BEFORE THE CONQUERING YEAR.
BAH, THAT'S OLD!
IMAGINE THE BALLADS I COULD'VE WRITTEN IF I'D BEEN AROUND AS LONG AS THIS PLACE.
JUST THE THOUGHT OF IT MAKES MY TAIL STIFF.

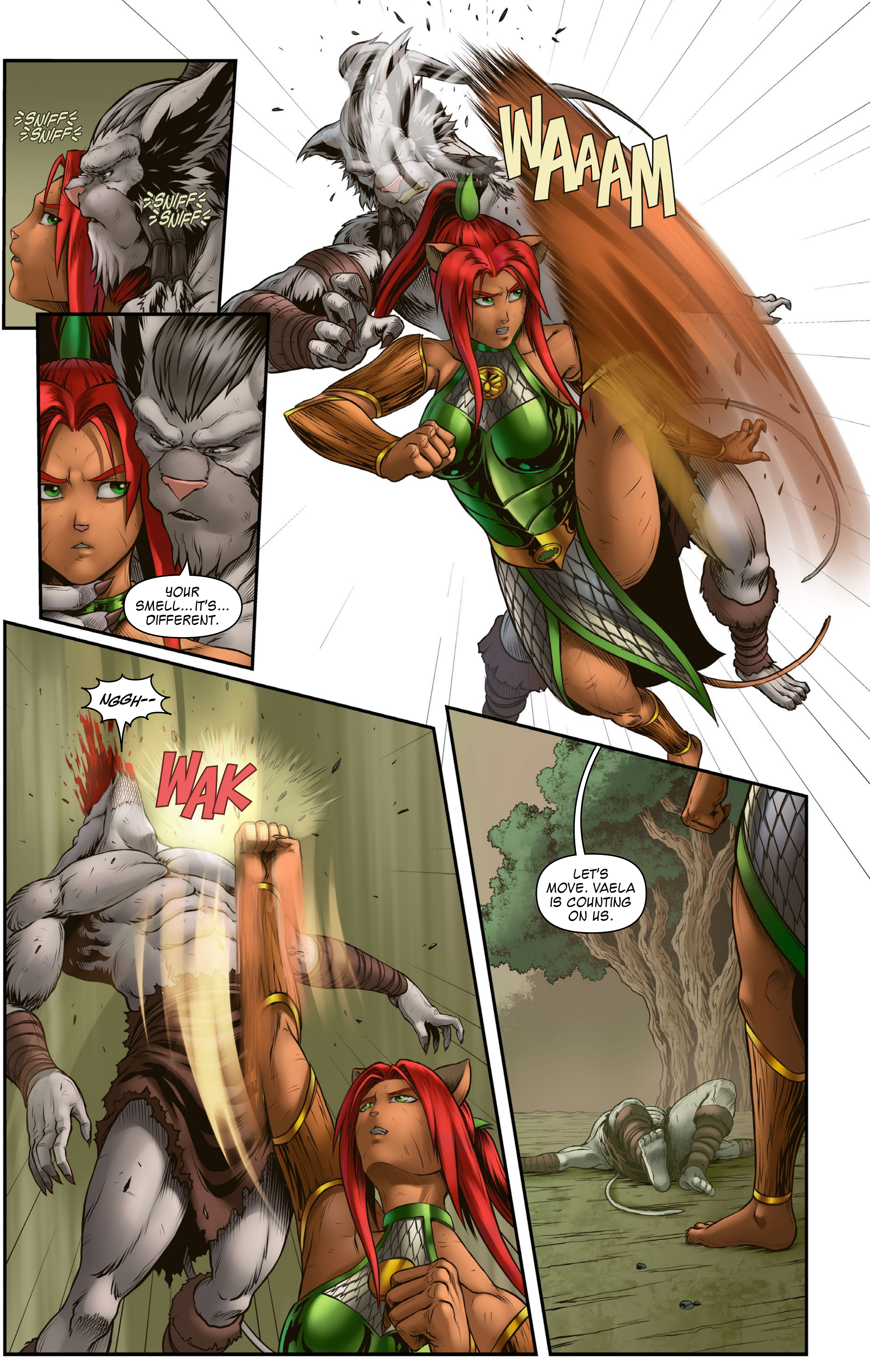

THESE MARKINGS...
...I'M UNFAMILIAR WITH THEM--
AREN'T IL-SHAVAARIANS SUPPOSED TO KNOW *EVERY* LANGUAGE IN VALDERIA?
WE DO.
HEH. SO, WHAT? DID YOU SKIP YOUR LESSON THAT DAY?
I NEVER MISSED A DAY.
JEEZ.
SKIPPING CLASS IS PRACTICALLY ***MANDATORY*** FOR YOUNG CATS BACK HOME.
HA! I'M BEGINNING TO SEE WHY MY FATHER ***ENJOYS*** YOUR COMPANY SO MUCH, MEKKAR.
IT'S TOO BAD WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO VISIT MY PARENTS IN LAURELVILLE, I COULD USE SOME OF MY MOTHER'S ARMORED GOAT STEW.
TRUE. ARELA'S STEW COULD BRING A MOON WARRIOR TO ITS KNEES...EVEN ***TEGEI.***
IL-SHAVAARIAN'S ONLY EAT FISH, MEKKAR. YOU KNOW THAT.
WELL... NOBODY'S PERFECT.
IF WE GET VAELA BACK SAFE, I'M SURE SHE WOULD LOVE TO SPEND SOME TIME RECOVERING IN GREENSPYRE WITH YOUR PARENTS, KALEERA.

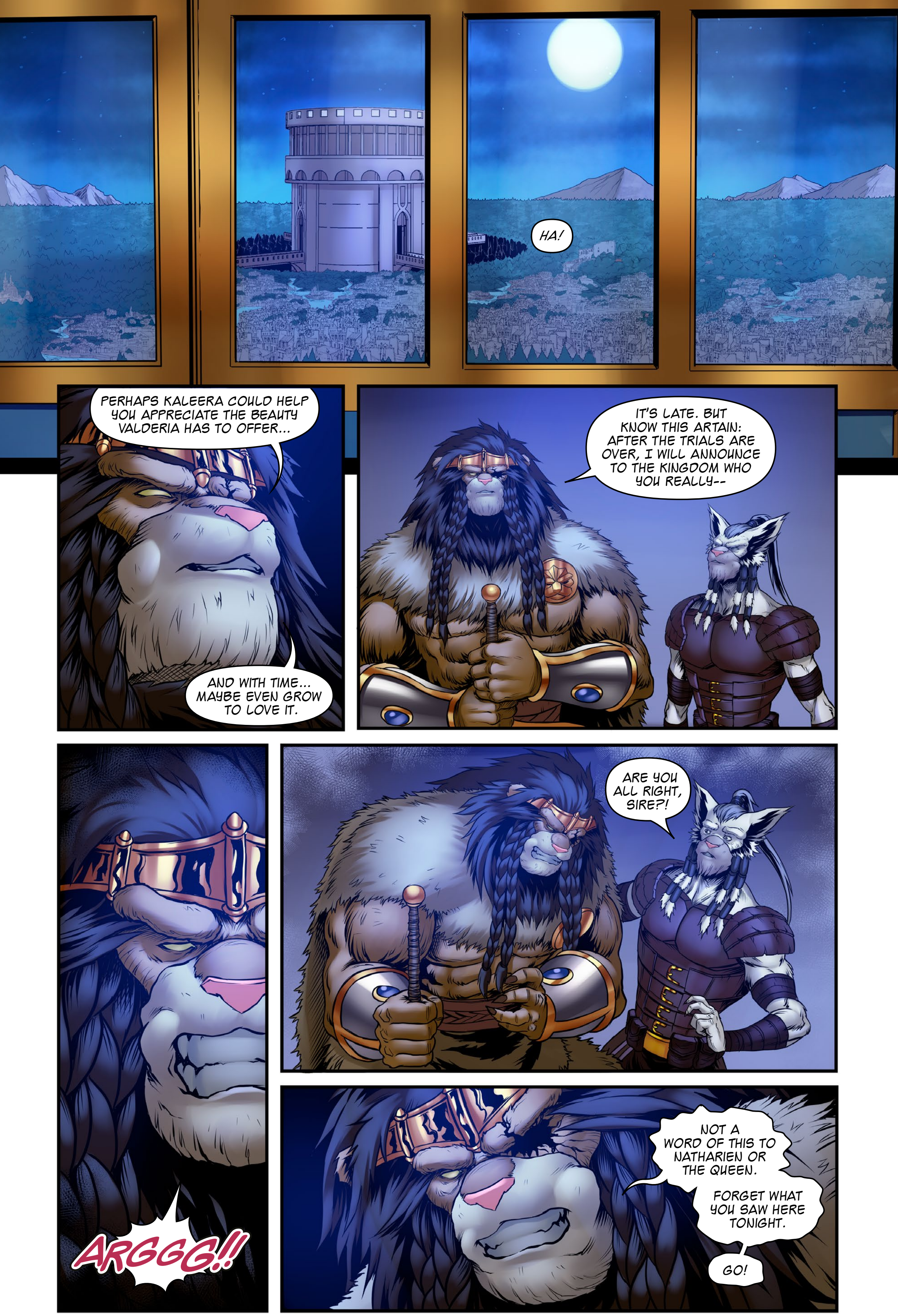

LOOK! A HUNTERIAN BATHAWK!
THEY'RE NATIVE TO GREENSPYRE. ISN'T THAT RIGHT, GREENY?
YES. WE EAT THEM ALL THE TIME.
YOU DO? BUT THEIR FEATHERS ARE SO PRETTY...THE TAILORS IN BLACKSTONE WOULD GO WILD FOR THEM.
THUK
KAAAWW
SCHIING
LOOK OUT!
DID YOU SEE THAT?
IT CAME FROM OVER THERE.
I'VE GOT **EYES** ON HIM!

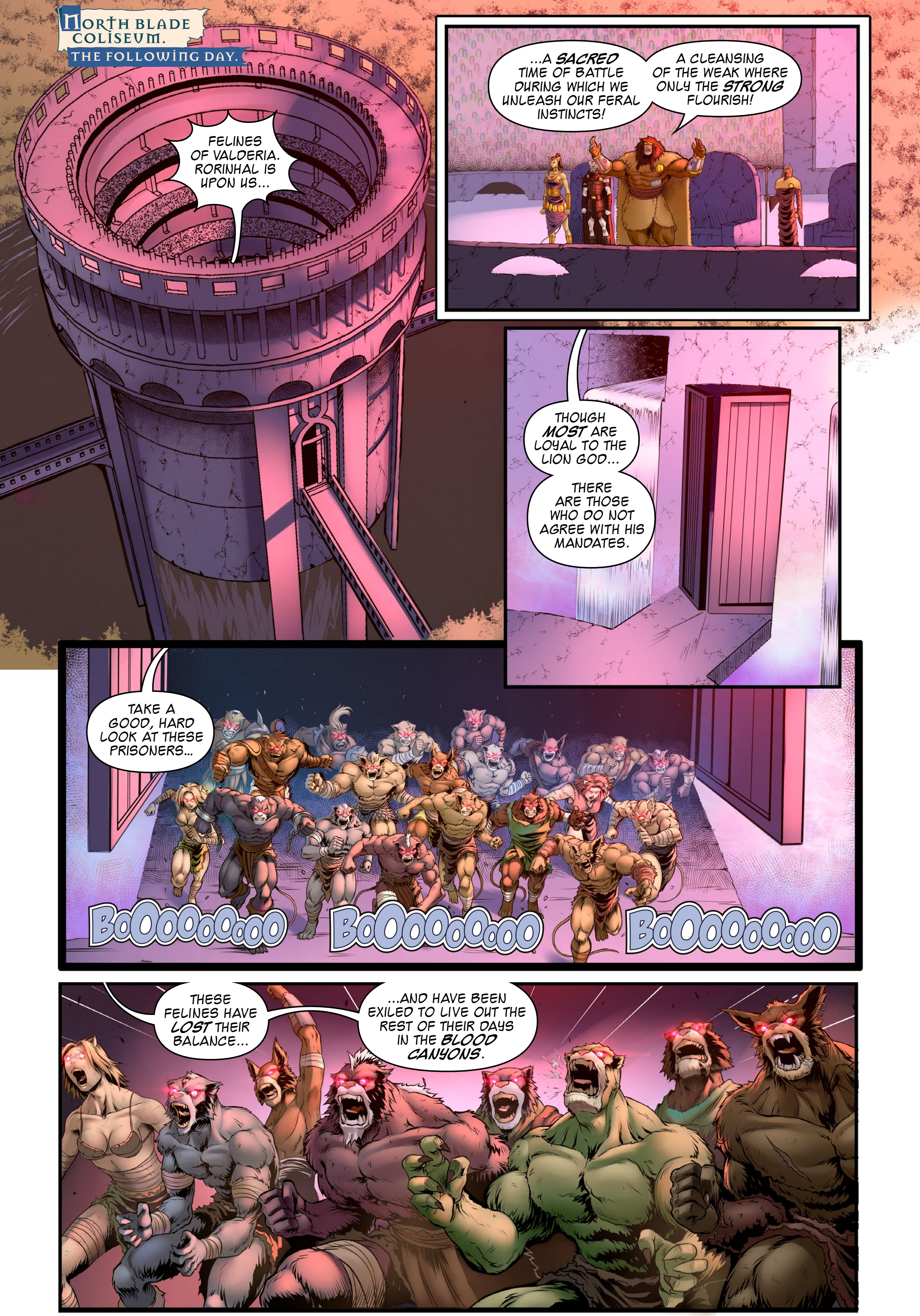

WHO DARES DISRUPT THE *PEACE* OF THE O'KEAN RUINS?
I THINK THIS IS OUR FELINE.
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
WE MEAN YOU NO HARM, FRIEND.
BY ORDER OF KING ERAMAD III, WE HAVE BEEN SENT TO RETRIEVE ARTAIN OF STORMHOLT AND BRING HIM BACK HO--
LISTEN. WE'RE ALL EXHAUSTED AND MORE THAN A LITTLE CRANKY.
SO, IF YOUR NAME IS ARTAIN AND YOU'RE FROM STORMHOLT, SAVE US ALL THE TROUBLE AND COME DOWN FROM THERE.
ARE YOU THREATENING ME?
WUMP

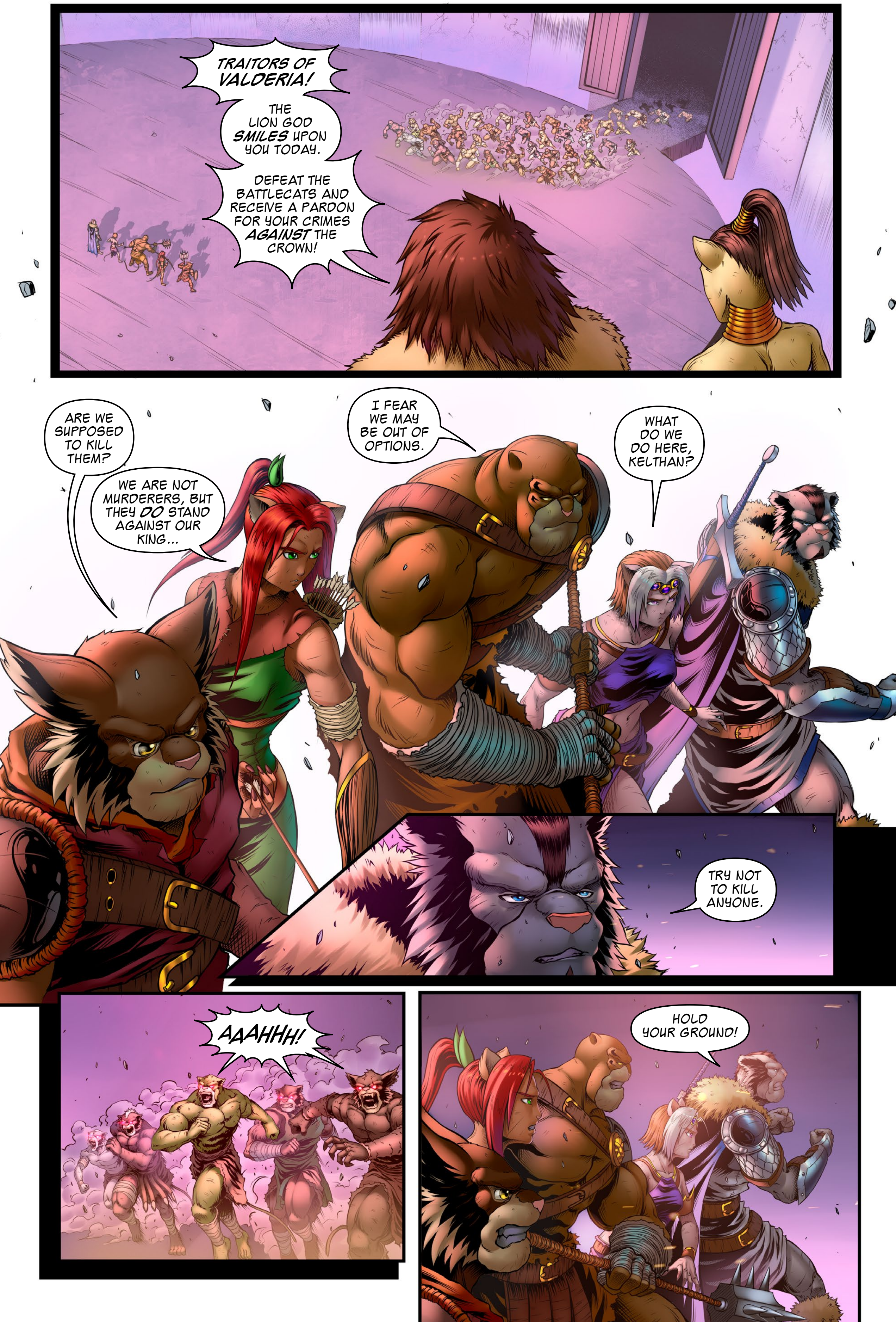

WHOA! NO, NO, NO!
I'M JUST SAYING IT'D BE *EASIER* IF--
DRAW YOUR WEAPONS!
THIS ONE IS CLEARLY NOT FELINE FRIENDLY...
MOVE ASIDE, MEKKAR. LESS TALK, MORE ACTION.
THAT'S RIGHT. SHE NEVER MISSES!
NOW'S OUR CHANCE!
IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE LIKE THIS.

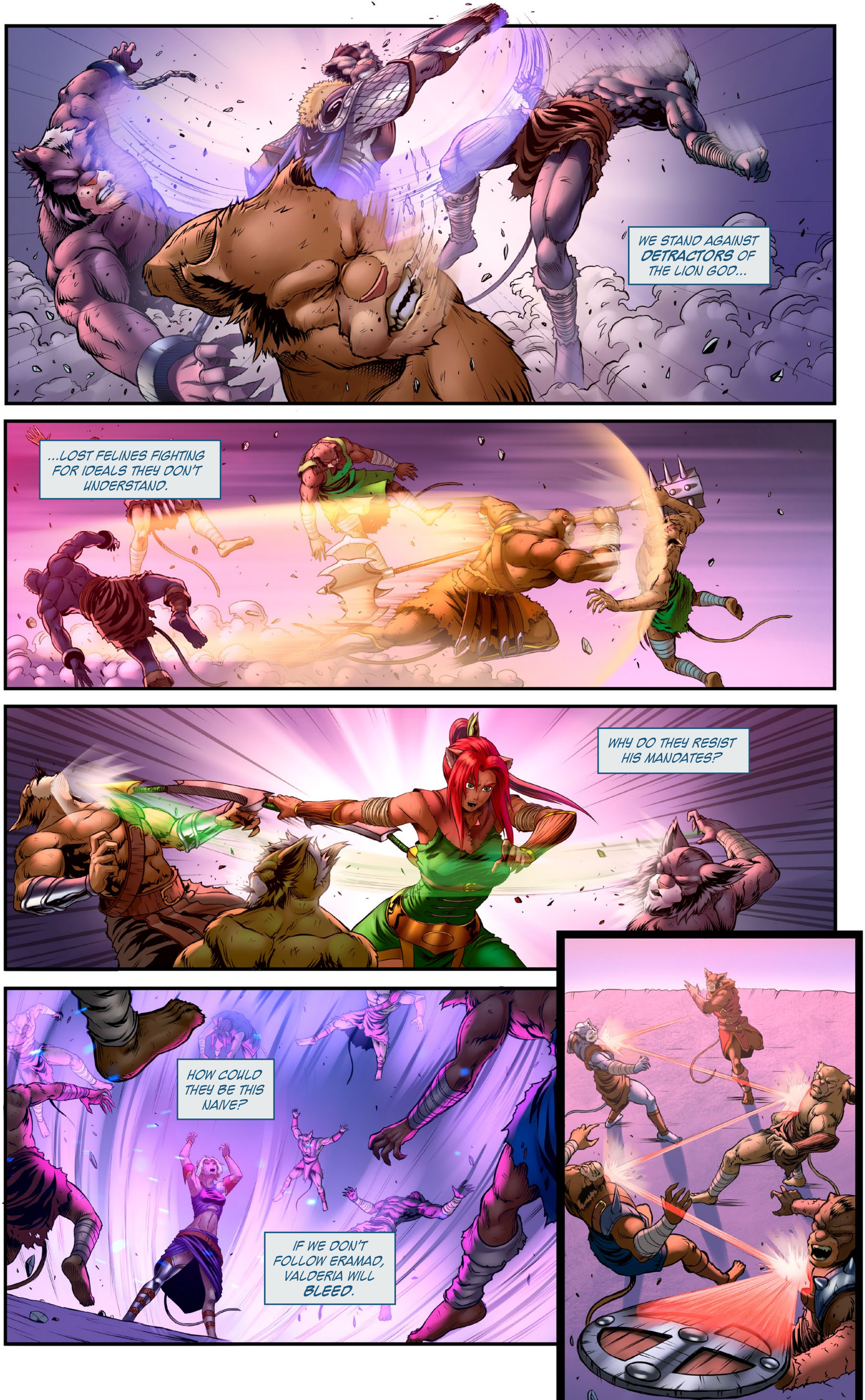

HRGH!
OOF!
ACK--
ARTAIN, STOP THIS! WE MEAN YOU NO HARM. NAT--
NGGH--
CRACK
MOVE AND I SNAP HER NECK.
EASY, NOW.
HIS FIGHTING SKILLS ARE UNLIKE ANY OTHER IN VALDERIA.
OW.
YOU'RE MAKING A MISTAKE.
HMM...

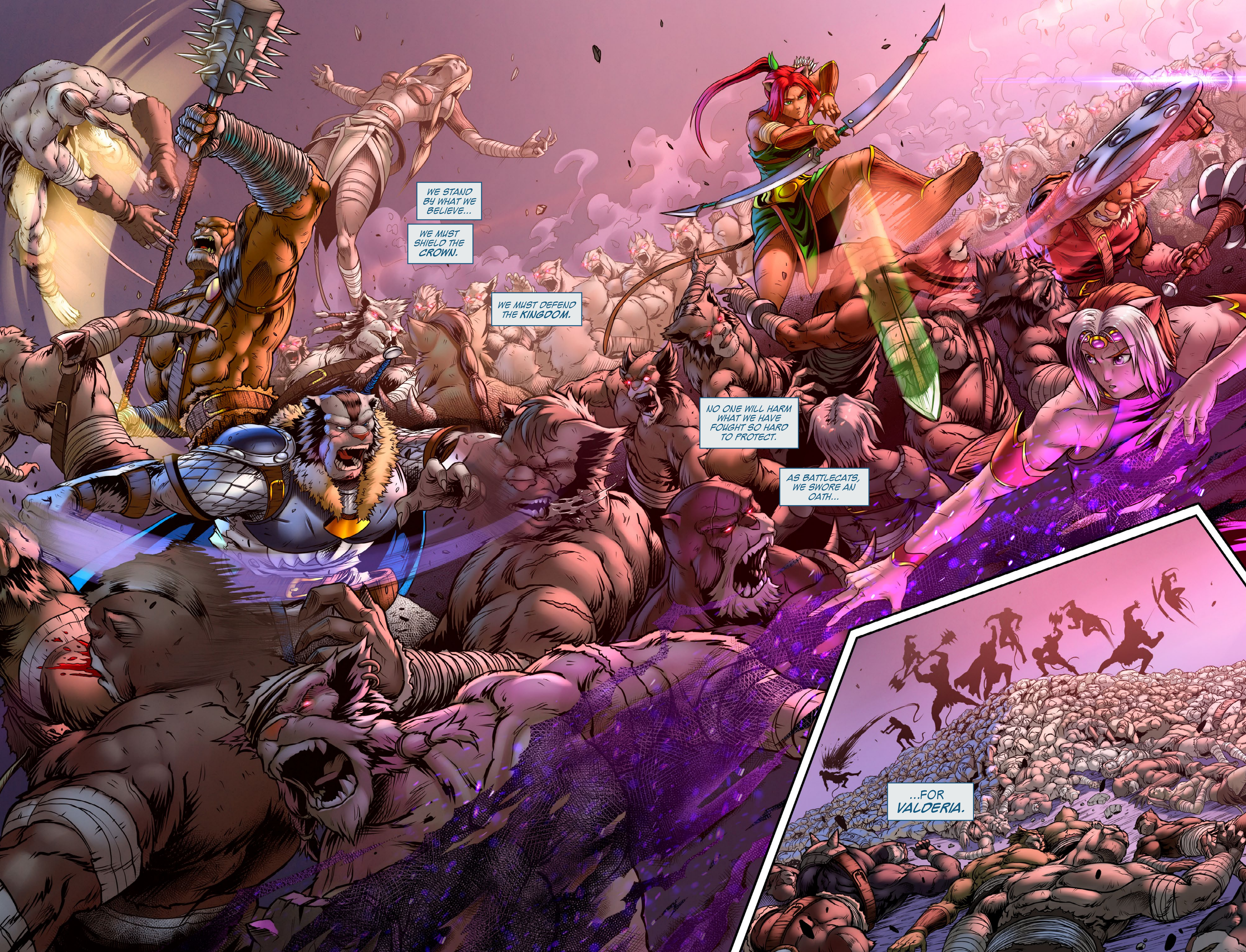

SNIFF SNIFF
SNIFF SNIFF
YOUR SMELL... IT'S... DIFFERENT.
WAAAM
NGGH--
WAK
LET'S MOVE. VAELA IS COUNTING ON US.

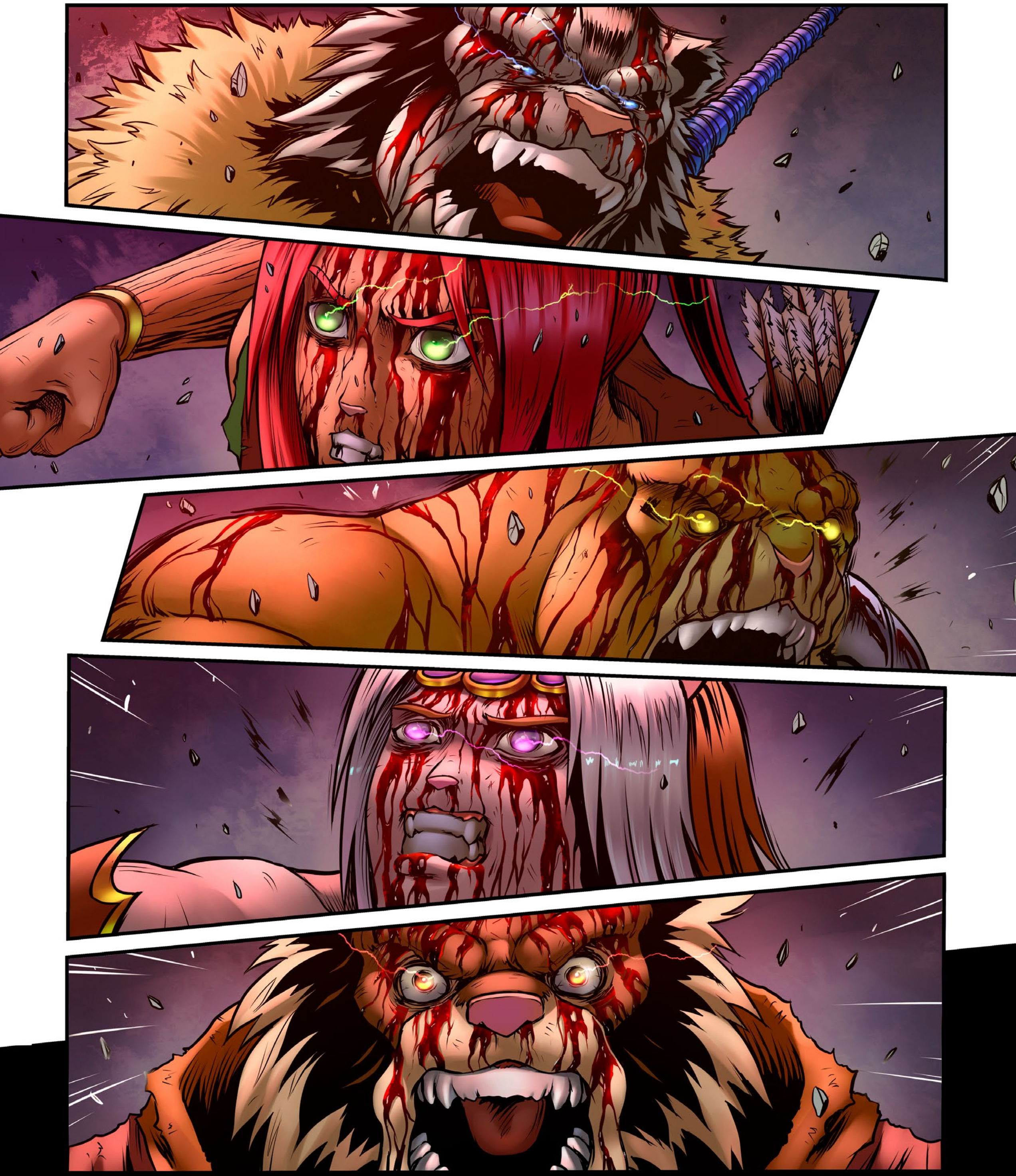

HA!
PERHAPS KALEERA COULD HELP YOU APPRECIATE THE BEAUTY VALDERIA HAS TO OFFER...
AND WITH TIME... MAYBE EVEN GROW TO LOVE IT.
IT'S LATE. BUT KNOW THIS ARTAIN: AFTER THE TRIALS ARE OVER, I WILL ANNOUNCE TO THE KINGDOM WHO YOU REALLY--
ARGGG!!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, SIRE?!
NOT A WORD OF THIS TO NATHARIEN OR THE QUEEN.
FORGET WHAT YOU SAW HERE TONIGHT.
GO!

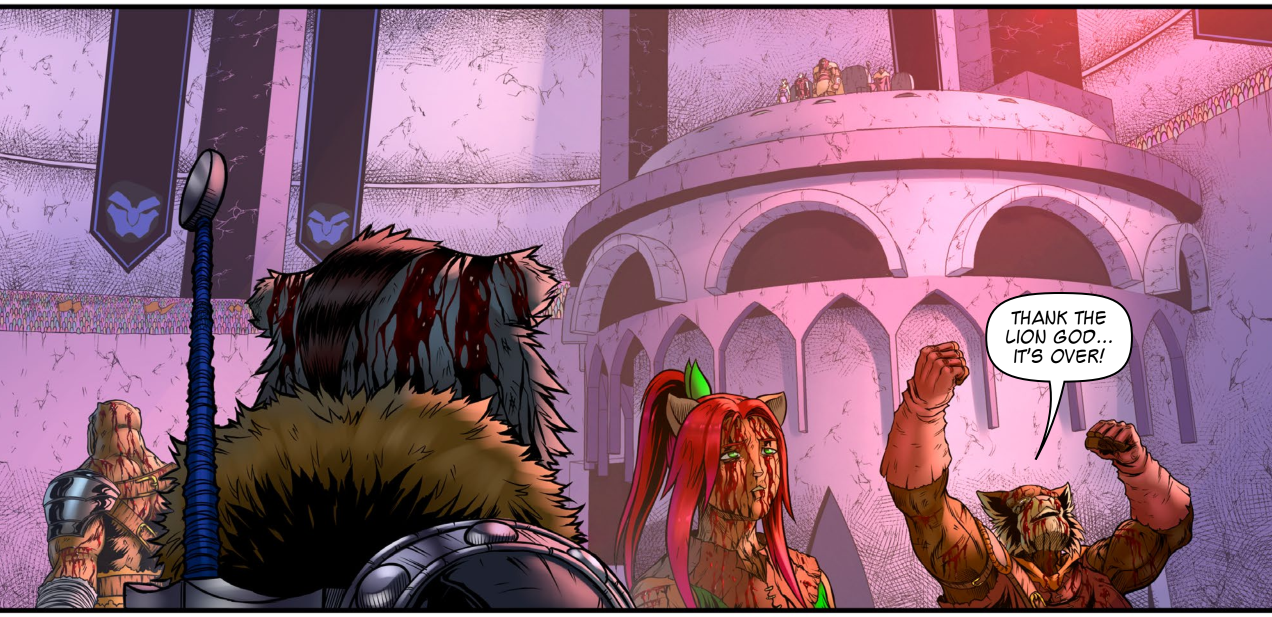

NORTH BLADE COLISEUM.
THE FOLLOWING DAY.
FELINES OF VALDERIA. RORINHAL IS UPON US...
...A SACRED TIME OF BATTLE DURING WHICH WE UNLEASH OUR FERAL INSTINCTS!
A CLEANSING OF THE WEAK WHERE ONLY THE STRONG FLOURISH!
THOUGH MOST ARE LOYAL TO THE LION GOD...
THERE ARE THOSE WHO DO NOT AGREE WITH HIS MANDATES.
TAKE A GOOD, HARD LOOK AT THESE PRISONERS...
BOOOOOOOOO
BOOOOOOOOO
BOOOOOOOOO
THESE FELINES HAVE LOST THEIR BALANCE...
...AND HAVE BEEN EXILED TO LIVE OUT THE REST OF THEIR DAYS IN THE BLOOD CANYONS.

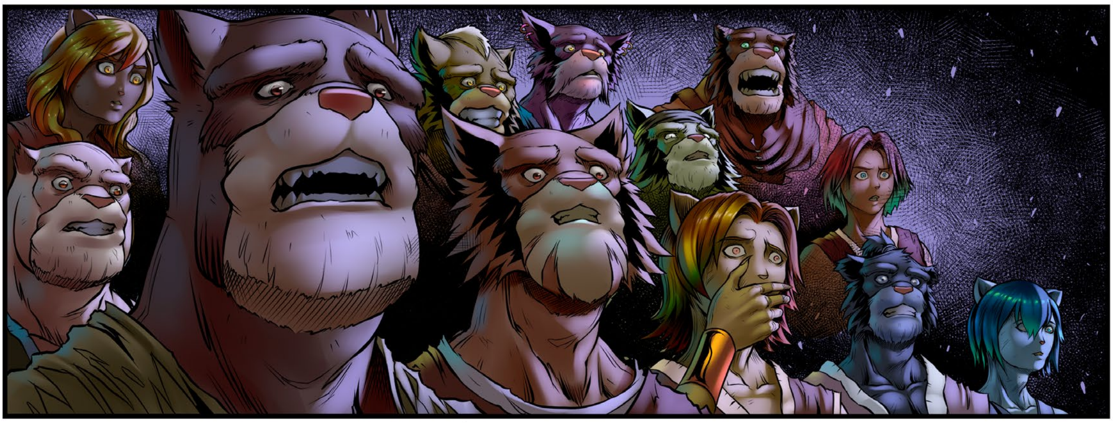

TRAITORS OF *VALDERIA!*
THE LION GOD **SMILES** UPON YOU TODAY.
DEFEAT THE BATTLECATS AND RECEIVE A PARDON FOR YOUR CRIMES ***AGAINST*** THE CROWN!
ARE WE SUPPOSED TO KILL THEM?
WE ARE NOT MURDERERS, BUT THEY ***DO*** STAND AGAINST OUR KING...
I FEAR WE MAY BE OUT OF OPTIONS.
WHAT DO WE DO HERE, KELTHAN?
TRY NOT TO KILL ANYONE.
AAAHHH!
HOLD YOUR GROUND!

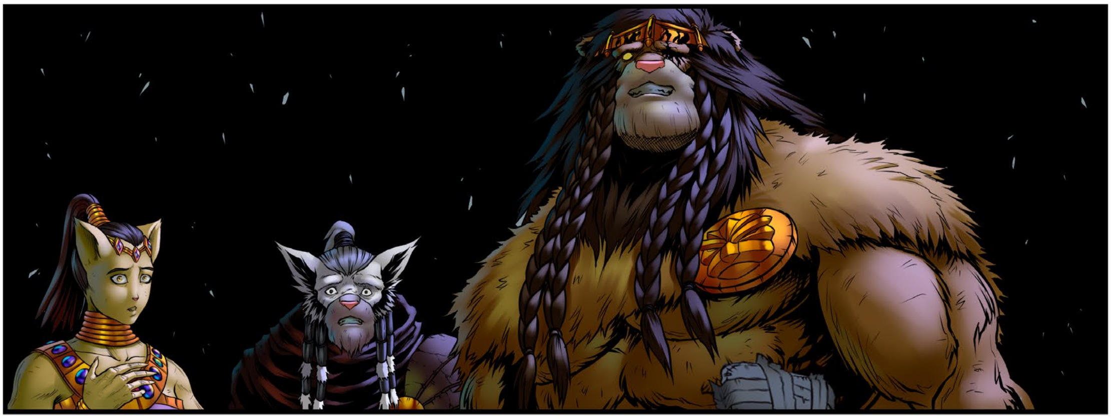

WE STAND AGAINST **DETRACTORS** OF THE LION GOD...
...LOST FELINES FIGHTING FOR IDEALS THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND.
WHY DO THEY RESIST HIS MANDATES?
HOW COULD THEY BE THIS NAIVE?
IF WE DON'T FOLLOW ERAMAD, VALDERIA WILL **BLEED**.

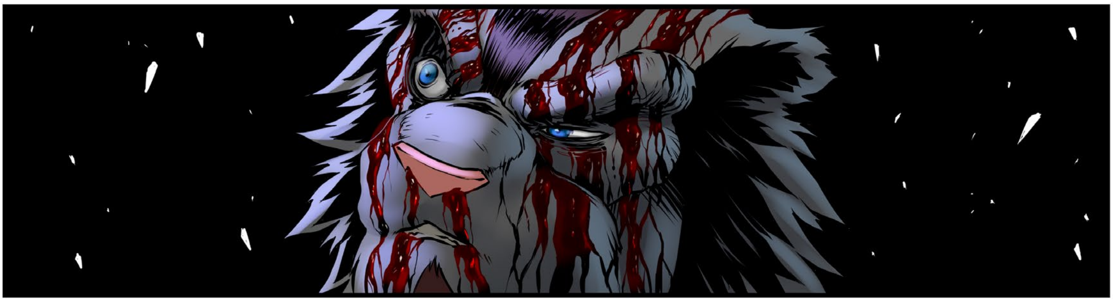

WE STAND BY WHAT WE BELIEVE...
WE MUST SHIELD THE **CROWN.**
WE MUST DEFEND THE **KINGDOM.**
NO ONE WILL HARM WHAT WE HAVE FOUGHT SO HARD TO PROTECT.
AS BATTLECATS, WE SWORE AN OATH...
...FOR **VALDERIA.**

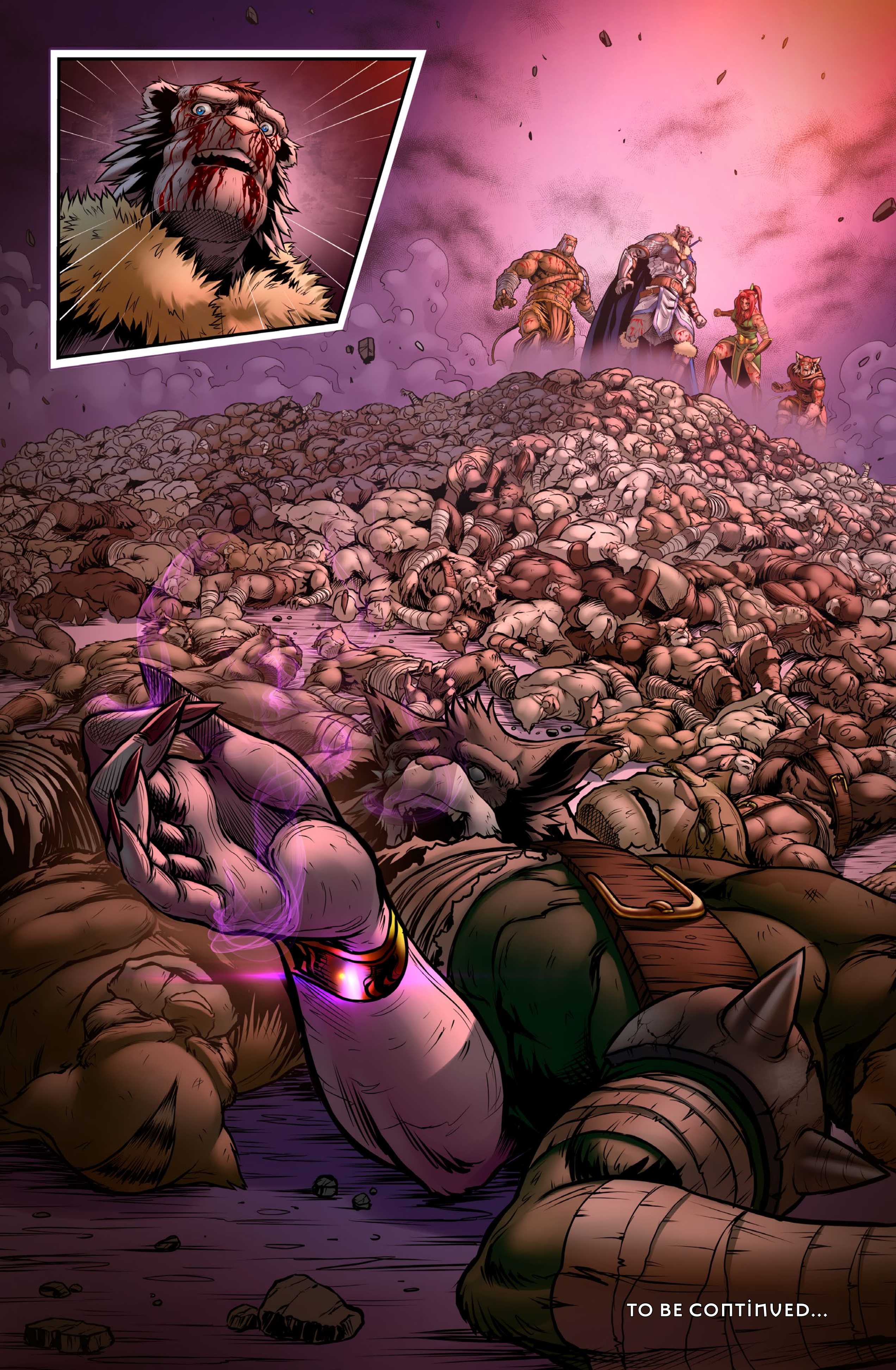



THANK THE LION GOD... IT'S OVER!







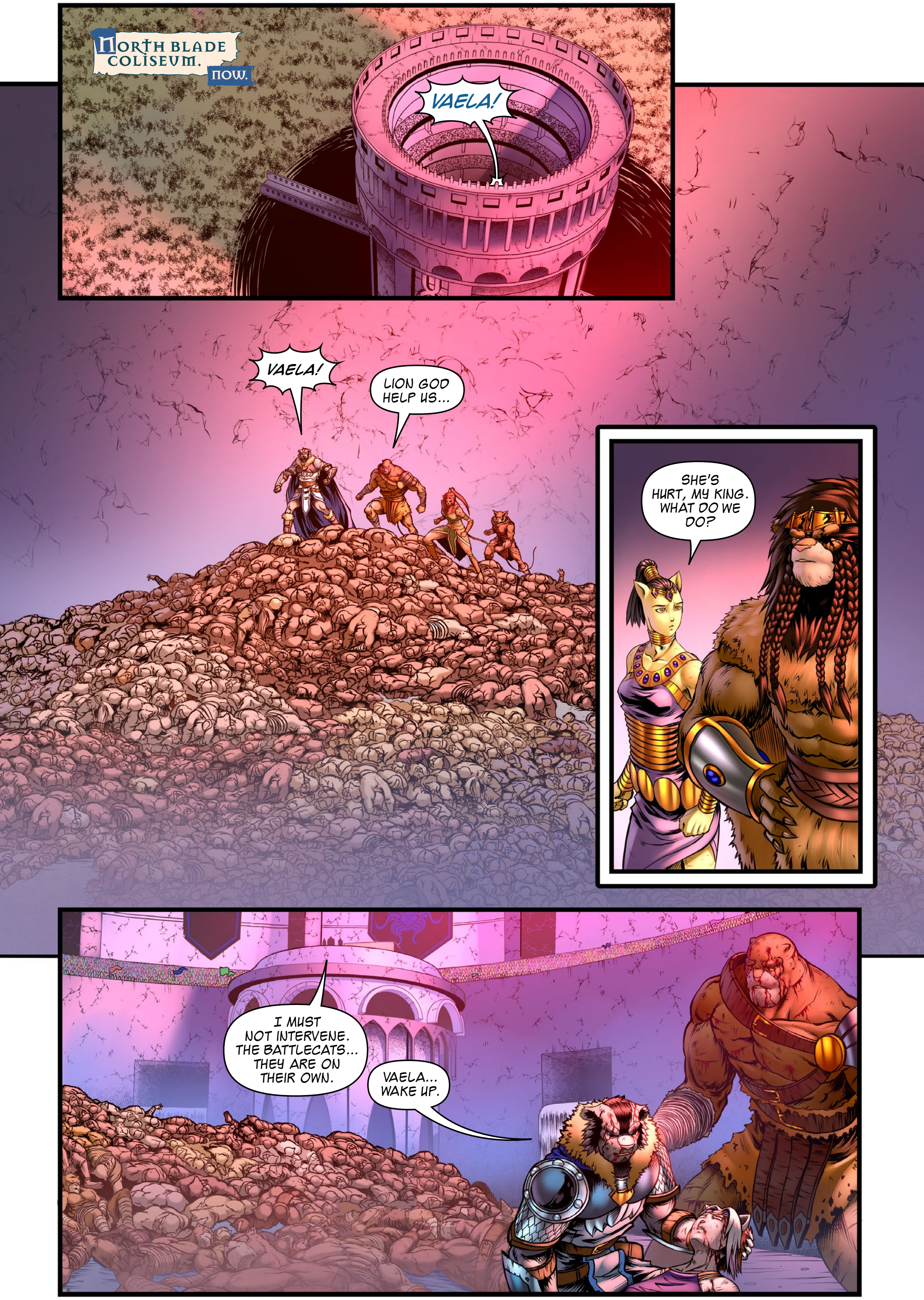

TO BE CONTINUED...

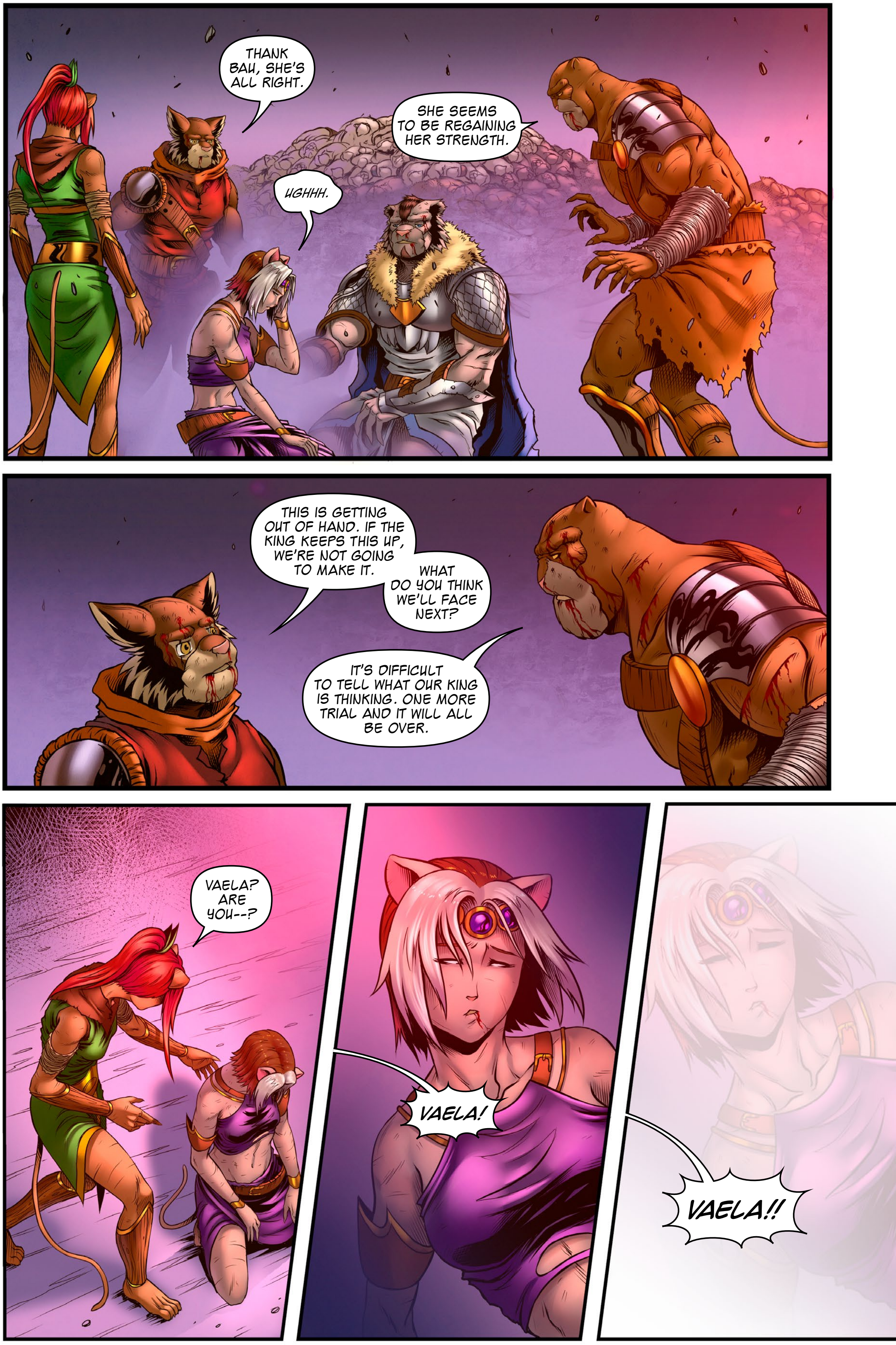
OLD FRIENDS

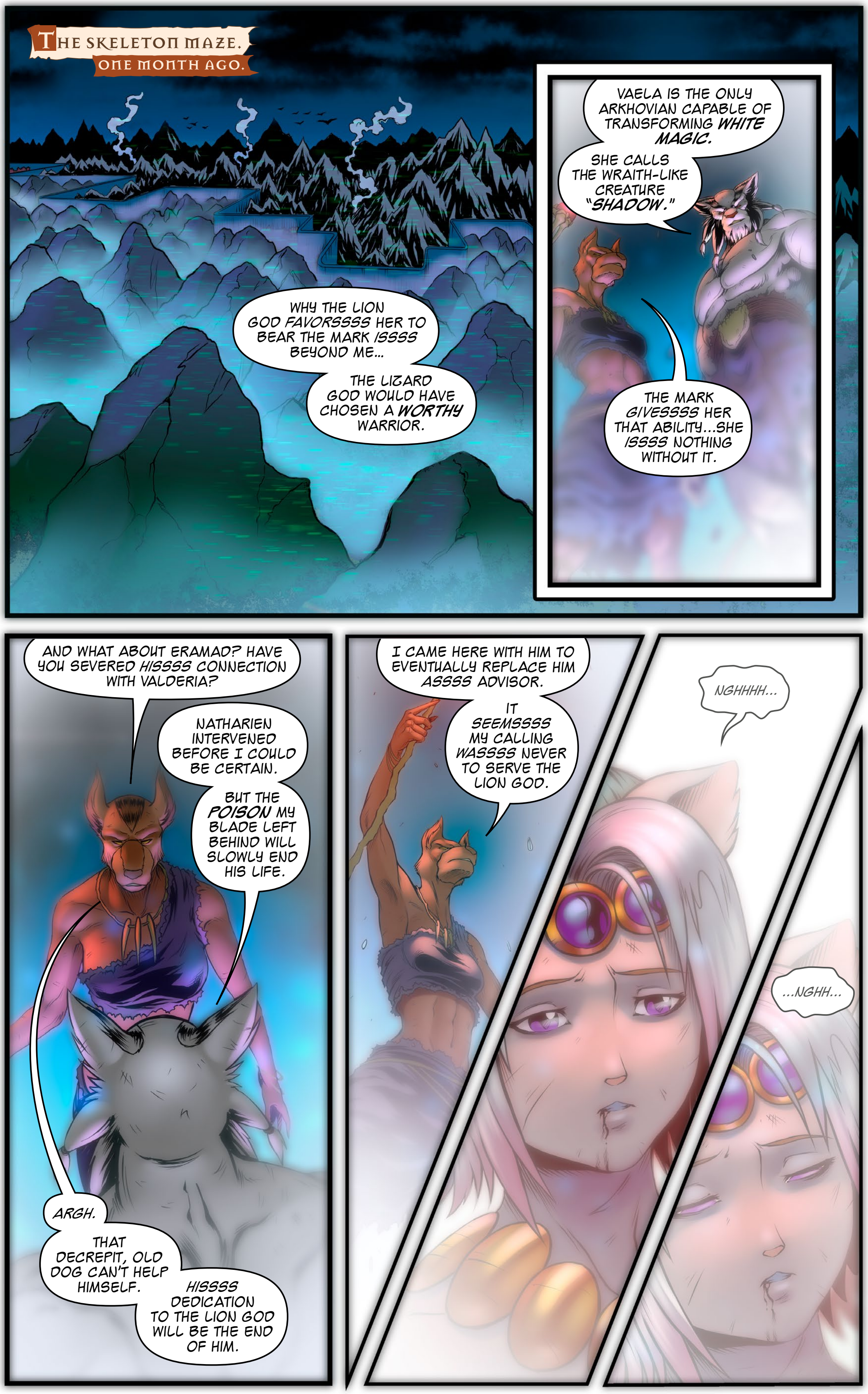
4

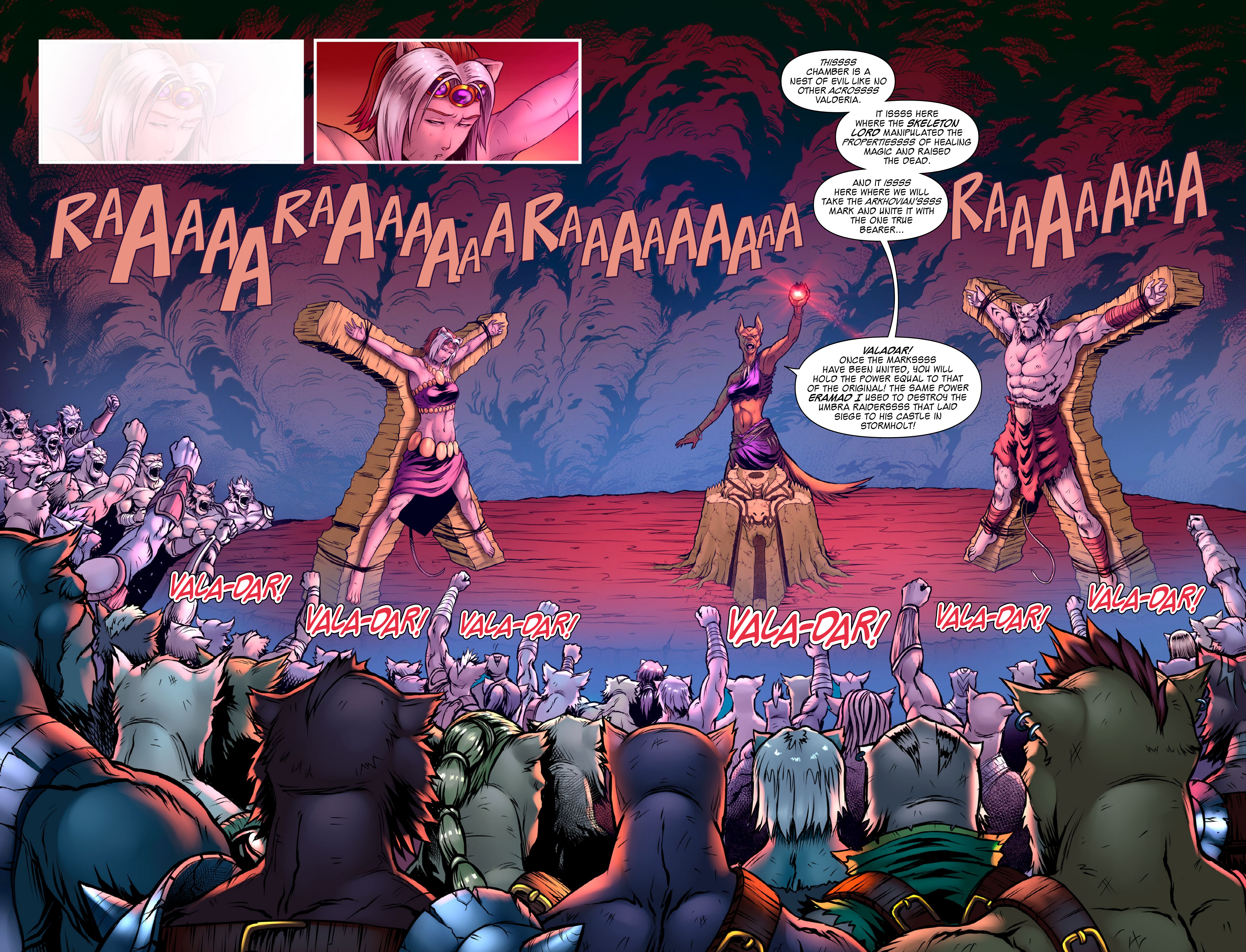
Chapter Four

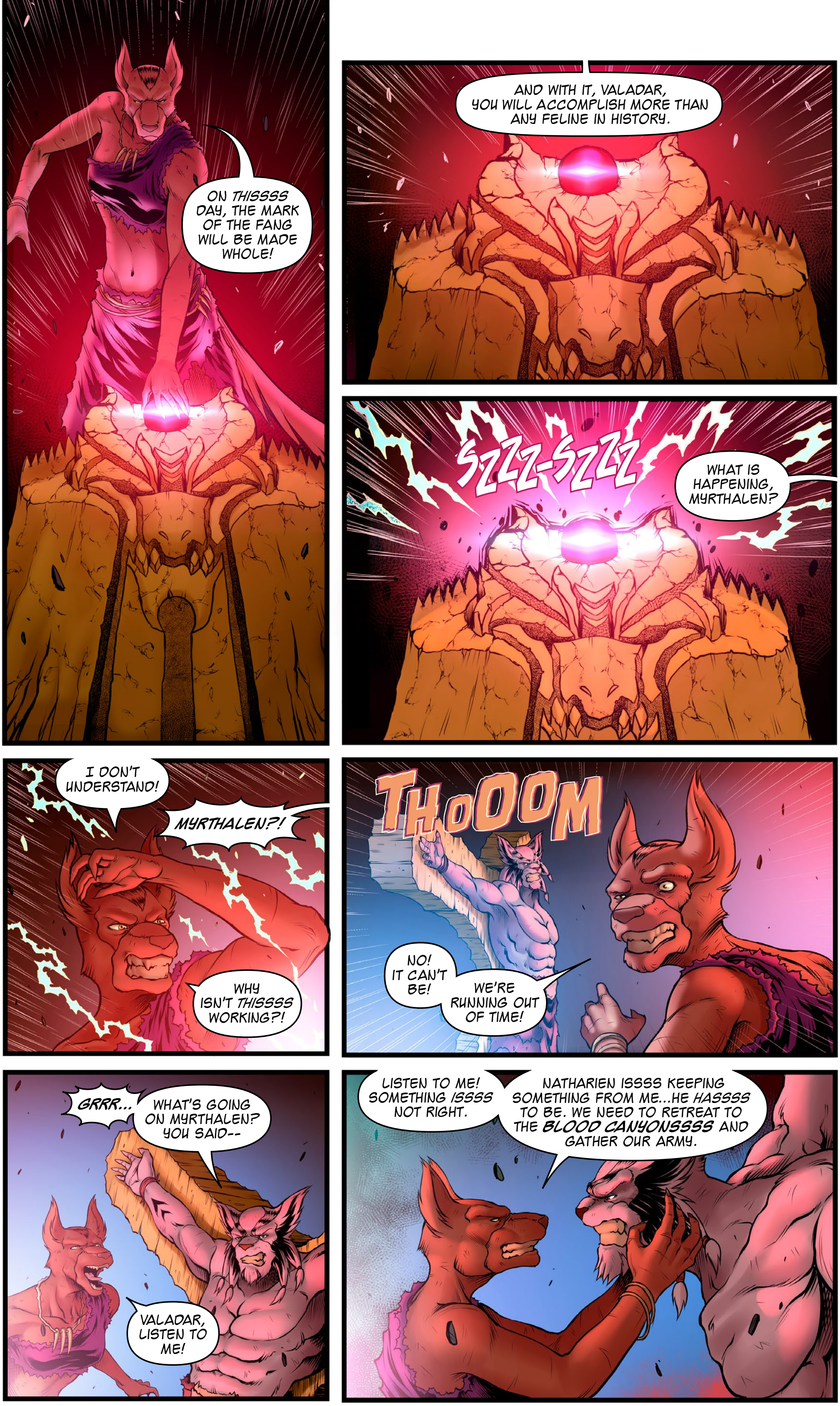
Tekino
MiKE Cameto

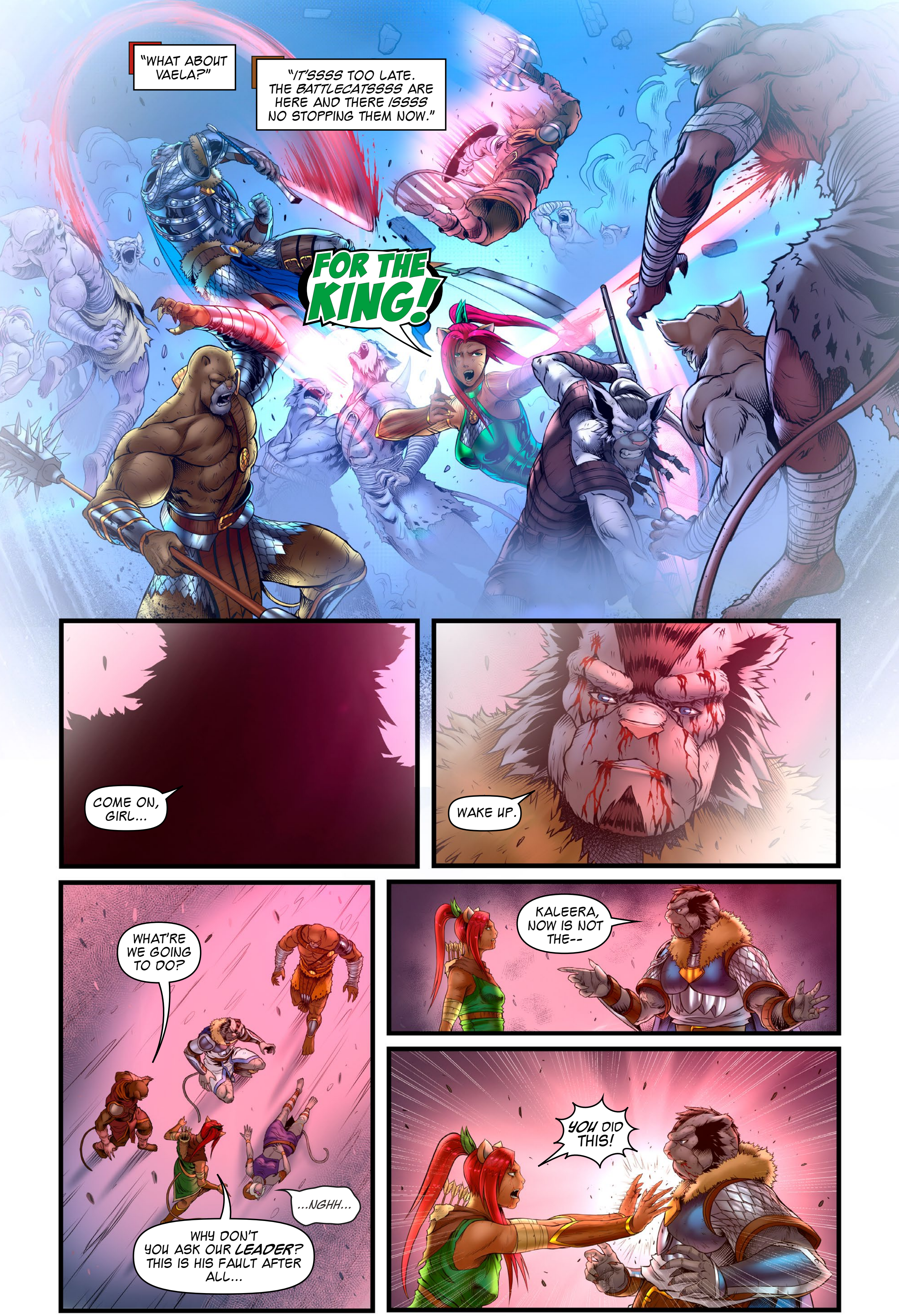

NORTH BLADE COLISEUM.
NOW.
VAELA!
VAELA!
LION GOD HELP US...
SHE'S HURT, MY KING. WHAT DO WE DO?
I MUST NOT INTERVENE. THE BATTLECATS... THEY ARE ON THEIR OWN.
VAELA... WAKE UP.

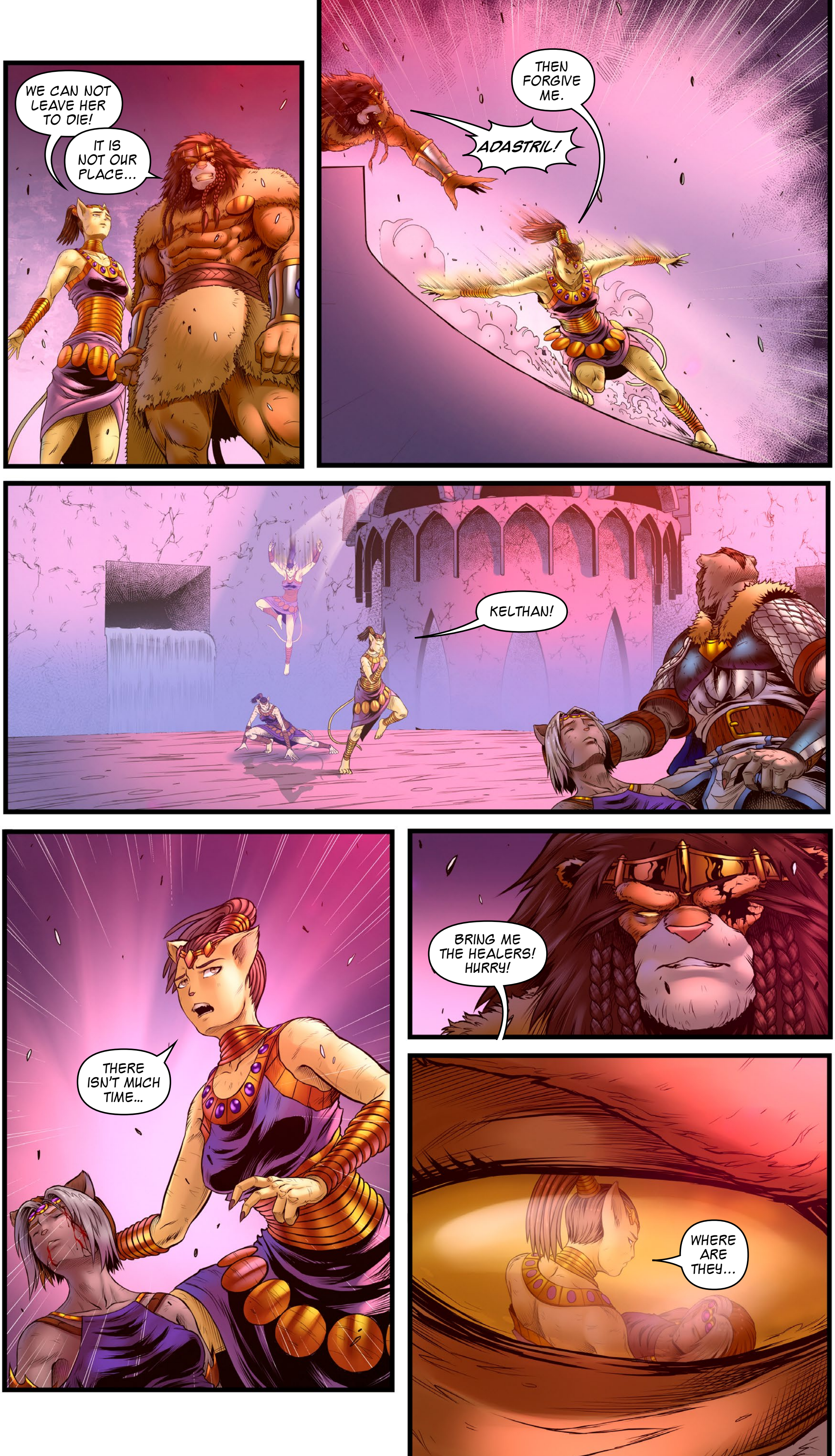

THANK BAU, SHE'S ALL RIGHT.
SHE SEEMS TO BE REGAINING HER STRENGTH.
UGHHH.
THIS IS GETTING OUT OF HAND. IF THE KING KEEPS THIS UP, WE'RE NOT GOING TO MAKE IT.
WHAT DO YOU THINK WE'LL FACE NEXT?
IT'S DIFFICULT TO TELL WHAT OUR KING IS THINKING. ONE MORE TRIAL AND IT WILL ALL BE OVER.
VAELA? ARE YOU--?
VAELA!
VAELA!!

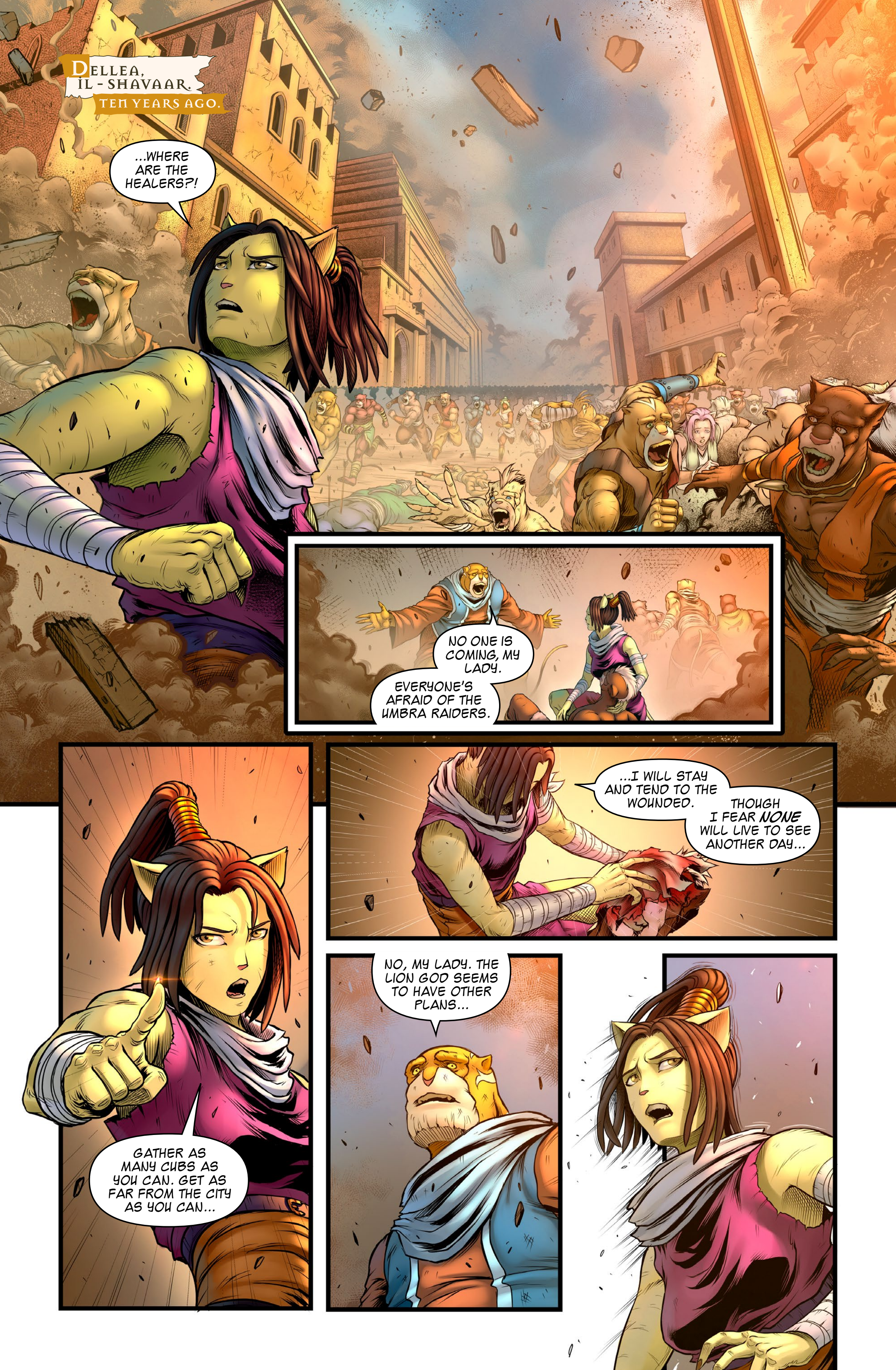

THE SKELETON MAZE.
ONE MONTH AGO.
WHY THE LION GOD FAVORSSSS HER TO BEAR THE MARK ISSSS BEYOND ME...
THE LIZARD GOD WOULD HAVE CHOSEN A WORTHY WARRIOR.
VAELA IS THE ONLY ARKHOVIAN CAPABLE OF TRANSFORMING WHITE MAGIC.
SHE CALLS THE WRAITH-LIKE CREATURE "SHADOW."
THE MARK GIVESSSS HER THAT ABILITY...SHE ISSSS NOTHING WITHOUT IT.
AND WHAT ABOUT ERAMAD? HAVE YOU SEVERED HISSSS CONNECTION WITH VALDERIA?
NATHARIEN INTERVENED BEFORE I COULD BE CERTAIN.
BUT THE POISON MY BLADE LEFT BEHIND WILL SLOWLY END HIS LIFE.
ARGH.
THAT DECREPIT, OLD DOG CAN'T HELP HIMSELF.
HISSSS DEDICATION TO THE LION GOD WILL BE THE END OF HIM.
I CAME HERE WITH HIM TO EVENTUALLY REPLACE HIM ASSSS ADVISOR.
IT SEEMSSSS MY CALLING WASSSS NEVER TO SERVE THE LION GOD.
NGHHHH...
...NGHH...

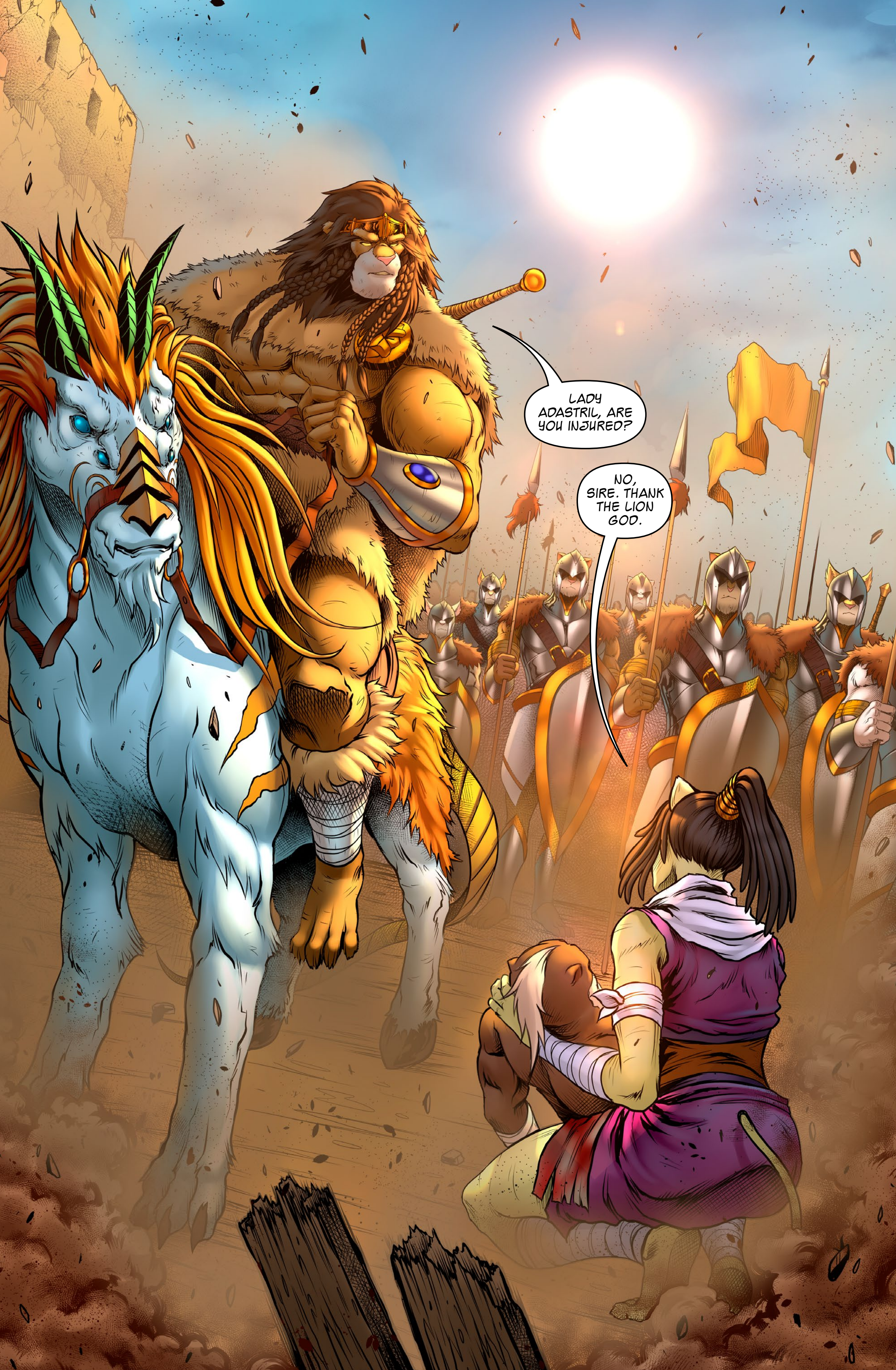

RAAAAA
RAAAAAAA
RAAAAAAAAAA
THISSSS CHAMBER IS A NEST OF EVIL LIKE NO OTHER *ACROSSSS* VALDERIA.
IT ISSSS HERE WHERE THE ***SKELETON LORD*** MANIPULATED THE *PROPERTIESSSS* OF HEALING MAGIC AND RAISED THE DEAD.
AND IT *ISSSS* HERE WHERE WE WILL TAKE THE *ARKHOVIAN'SSSS* MARK AND UNITE IT WITH THE ONE TRUE BEARER...
RAAAAAAAAA
VALADAR! ONCE THE MARKSSSS HAVE BEEN UNITED, YOU WILL HOLD THE POWER EQUAL TO THAT OF THE ORIGINAL! THE SAME POWER ***ERAMAD I*** USED TO DESTROY THE UMBRA RAIDERSSSS THAT LAID SIEGE TO HIS CASTLE IN STORMHOLT!
VALA-DAR!
VALA-DAR!
VALA-DAR!
VALA-DAR!
VALA-DAR!
VALA-DAR!

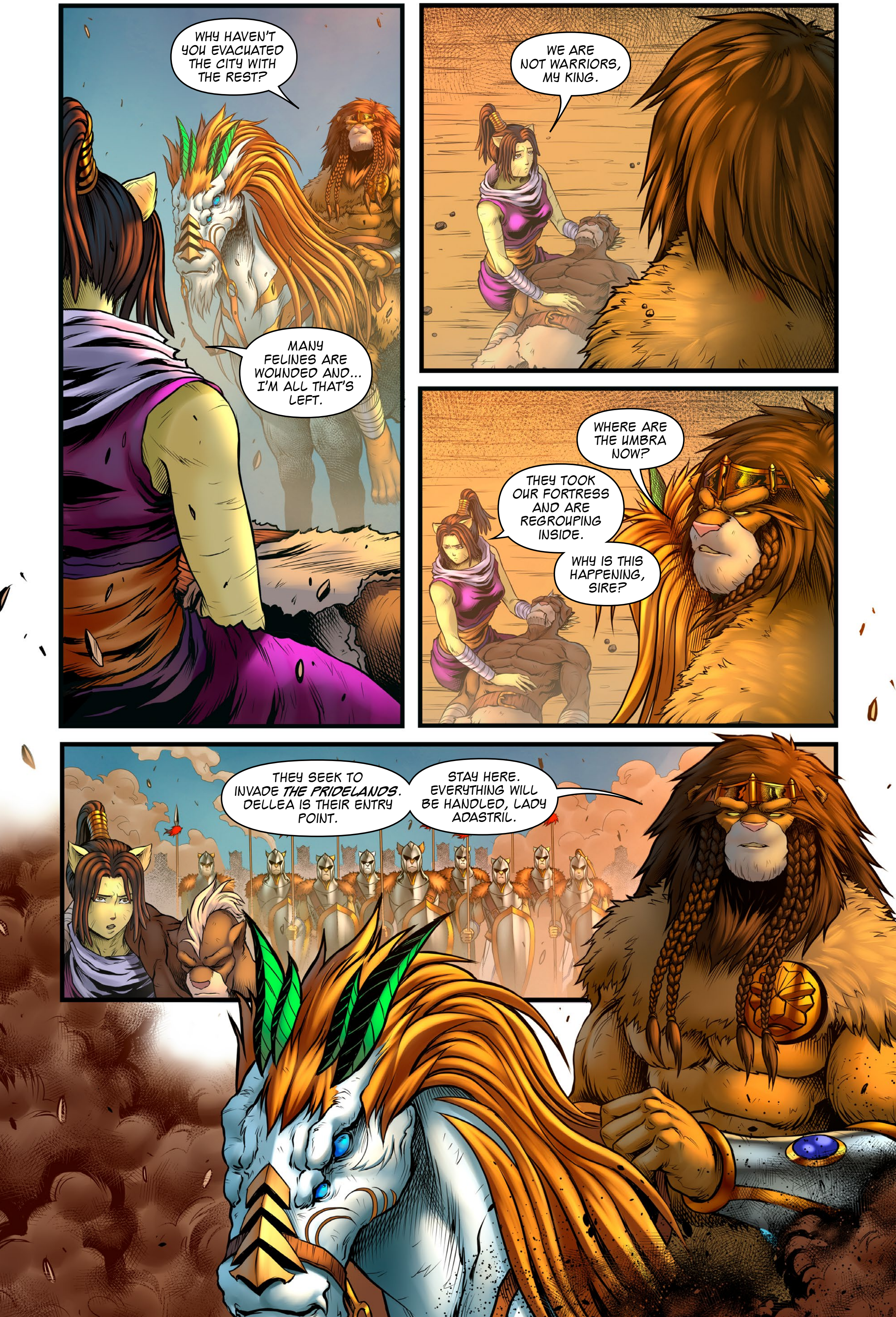

ON *THISSSS* DAY, THE MARK OF THE FANG WILL BE MADE WHOLE!
AND WITH IT, VALADAR, YOU WILL ACCOMPLISH MORE THAN ANY FELINE IN HISTORY.
SZZZ-SZZZ
WHAT IS HAPPENING, MYRTHALEN?
I DON'T UNDERSTAND!
MYRTHALEN?!
WHY ISN'T *THISSSS* WORKING?!
THOOOM
NO! IT CAN'T BE!
WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME!
GRRR...
WHAT'S GOING ON MYRTHALEN? YOU SAID--
VALADAR, LISTEN TO ME!
LISTEN TO ME! SOMETHING *ISSSS* NOT RIGHT.
NATHARIEN ISSSS KEEPING SOMETHING FROM ME...HE *HASSSS* TO BE. WE NEED TO RETREAT TO THE ***BLOOD CANYONSSSS*** AND GATHER OUR ARMY.

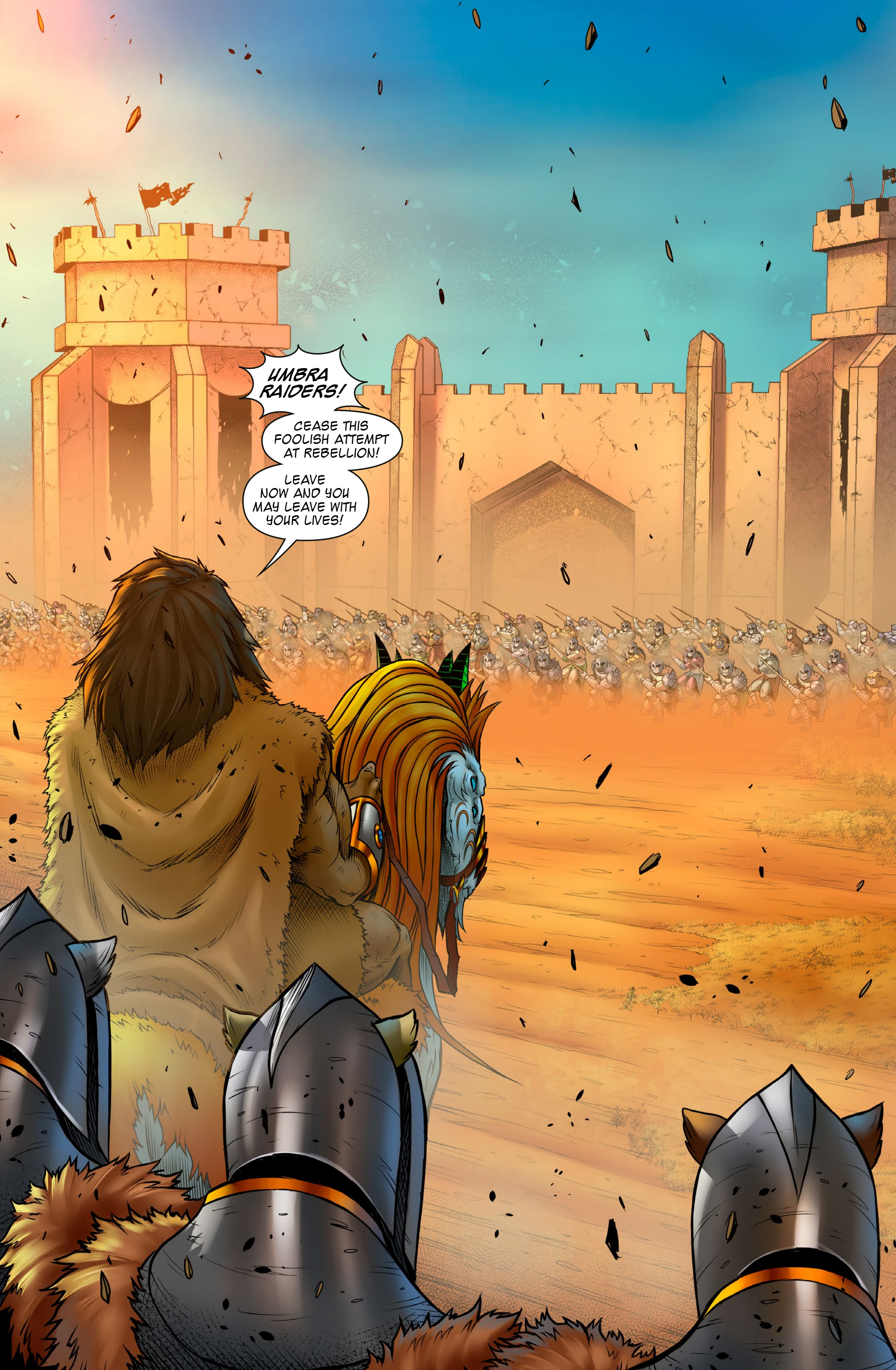

"WHAT ABOUT VAELA?"
"*IT'SSSS* TOO LATE. THE *BATTLECATSSSS* ARE HERE AND THERE *ISSSS* NO STOPPING THEM NOW."
FOR THE KING!
COME ON, GIRL...
WAKE UP.
WHAT'RE WE GOING TO DO?
...NGHH...
WHY DON'T YOU ASK OUR *LEADER*? THIS IS HIS FAULT AFTER ALL...
KALEERA, NOW IS NOT THE--
YOU DID THIS!

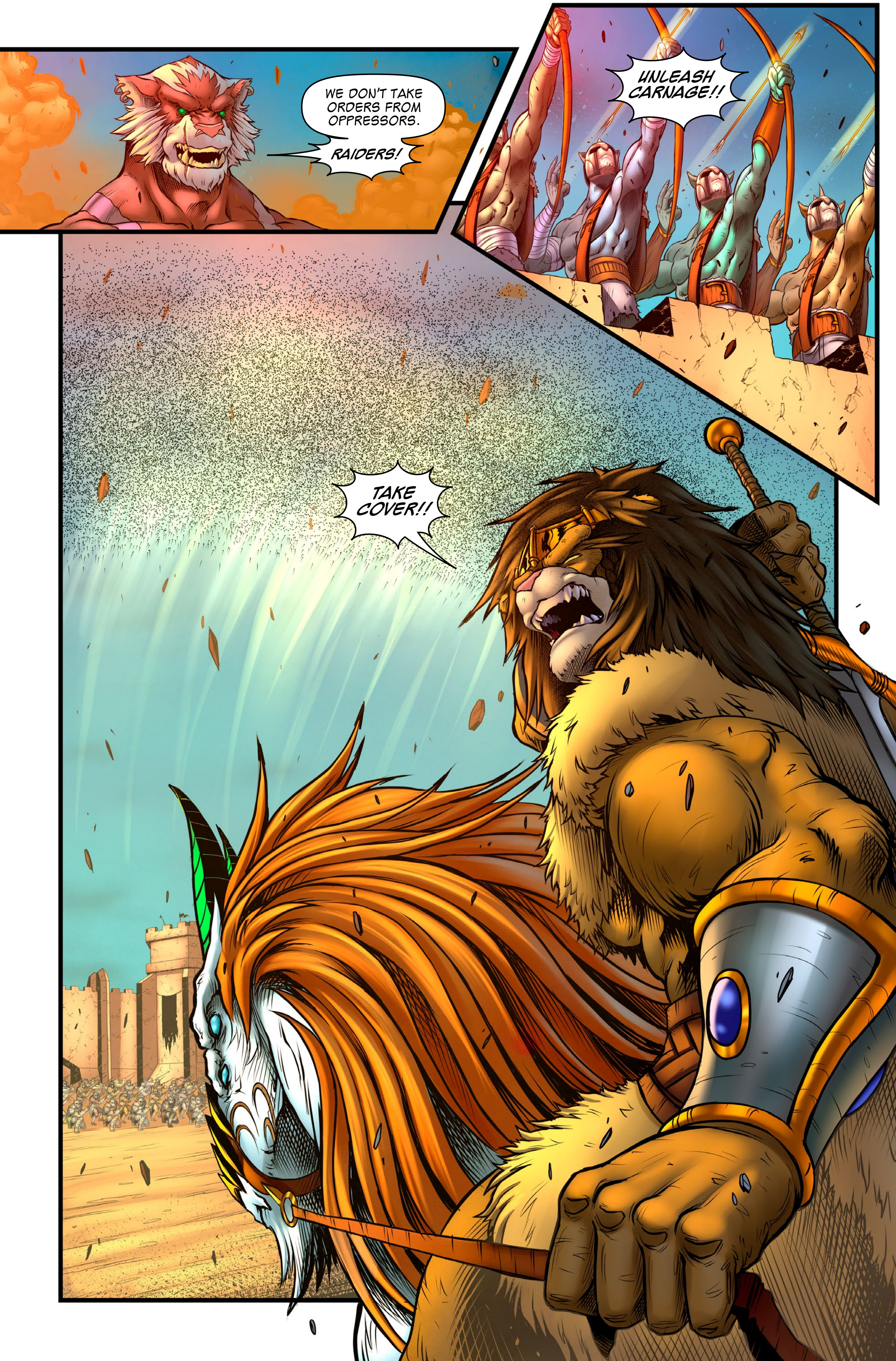

WE CAN NOT LEAVE HER TO DIE!
IT IS NOT OUR PLACE...
ADASTRIL!
THEN FORGIVE ME.
KELTHAN!
THERE ISN'T MUCH TIME...
BRING ME THE HEALERS! HURRY!
WHERE ARE THEY...

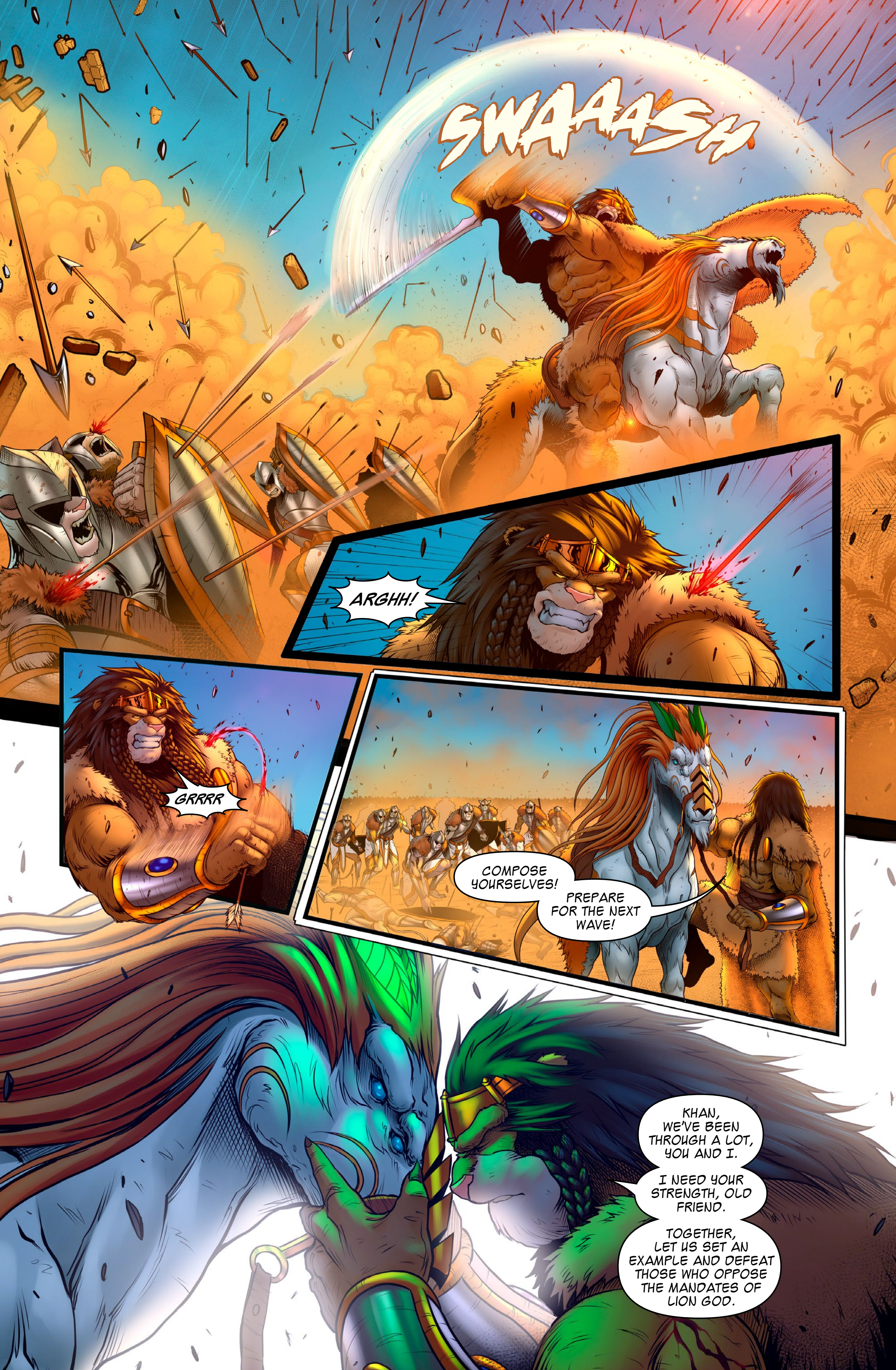

Dellea, Il-Shavaar.
Ten years ago.
...WHERE ARE THE HEALERS?!
NO ONE IS COMING, MY LADY.
EVERYONE'S AFRAID OF THE UMBRA RAIDERS.
GATHER AS MANY CUBS AS YOU CAN. GET AS FAR FROM THE CITY AS YOU CAN...
...I WILL STAY AND TEND TO THE WOUNDED.
THOUGH I FEAR *NONE* WILL LIVE TO SEE ANOTHER DAY...
NO, MY LADY. THE LION GOD SEEMS TO HAVE OTHER PLANS...

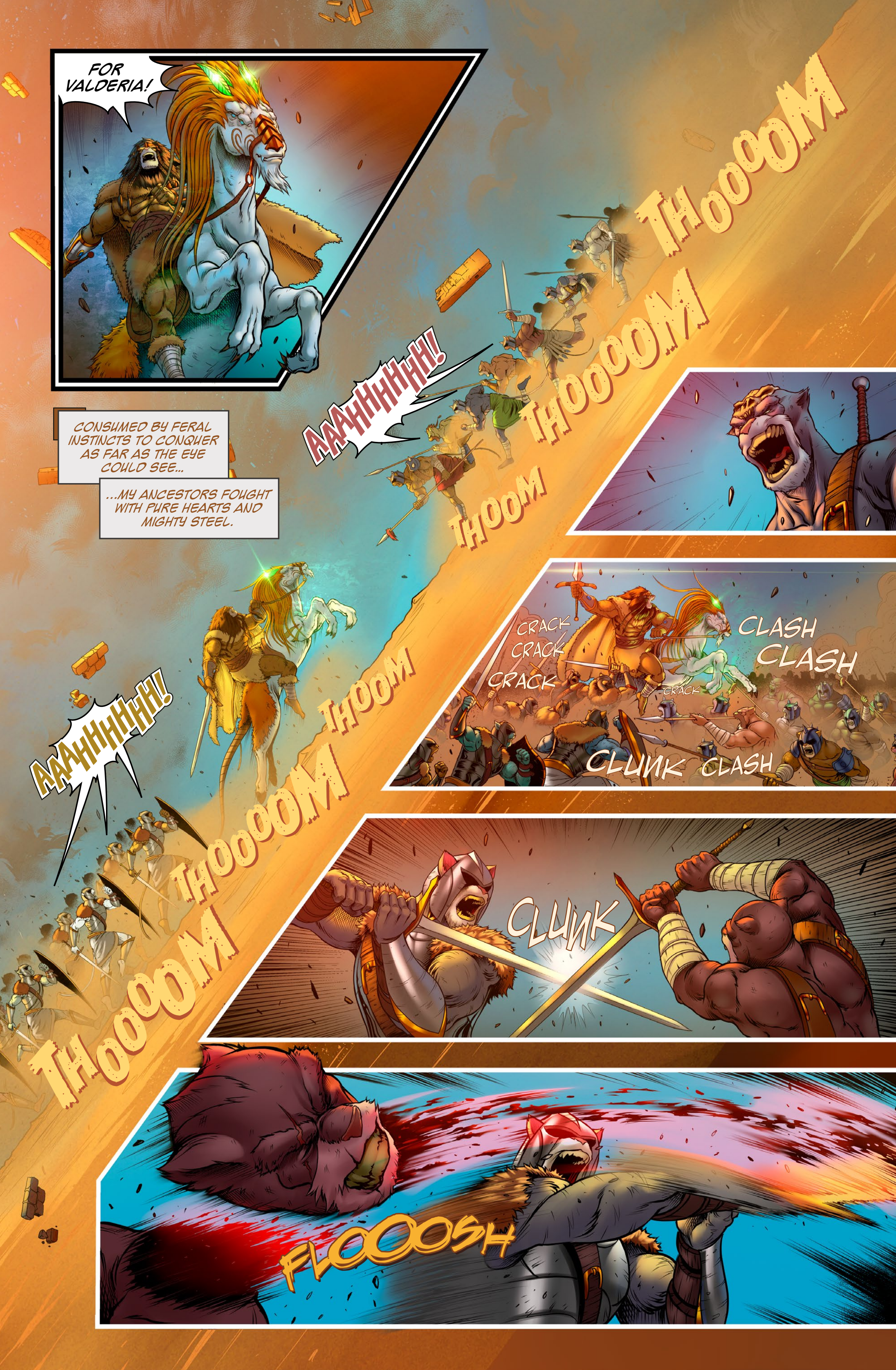

LADY ADASTRIL, ARE YOU INJURED?
NO, SIRE. THANK THE LION GOD.


WHY HAVEN'T YOU EVACUATED THE CITY WITH THE REST?
MANY FELINES ARE WOUNDED AND... I'M ALL THAT'S LEFT.
WE ARE NOT WARRIORS, MY KING.
WHERE ARE THE UMBRA NOW?
THEY TOOK OUR FORTRESS AND ARE REGROUPING INSIDE.
WHY IS THIS HAPPENING, SIRE?
THEY SEEK TO INVADE *THE PRIDELANDS*. DELLEA IS THEIR ENTRY POINT.
STAY HERE. EVERYTHING WILL BE HANDLED, LADY ADASTRIL.


UMBRA RAIDERS!
CEASE THIS FOOLISH ATTEMPT AT REBELLION!
LEAVE NOW AND YOU MAY LEAVE WITH YOUR LIVES!


WE DON'T TAKE ORDERS FROM OPPRESSORS.
RAIDERS!
UNLEASH CARNAGE!!
TAKE COVER!!

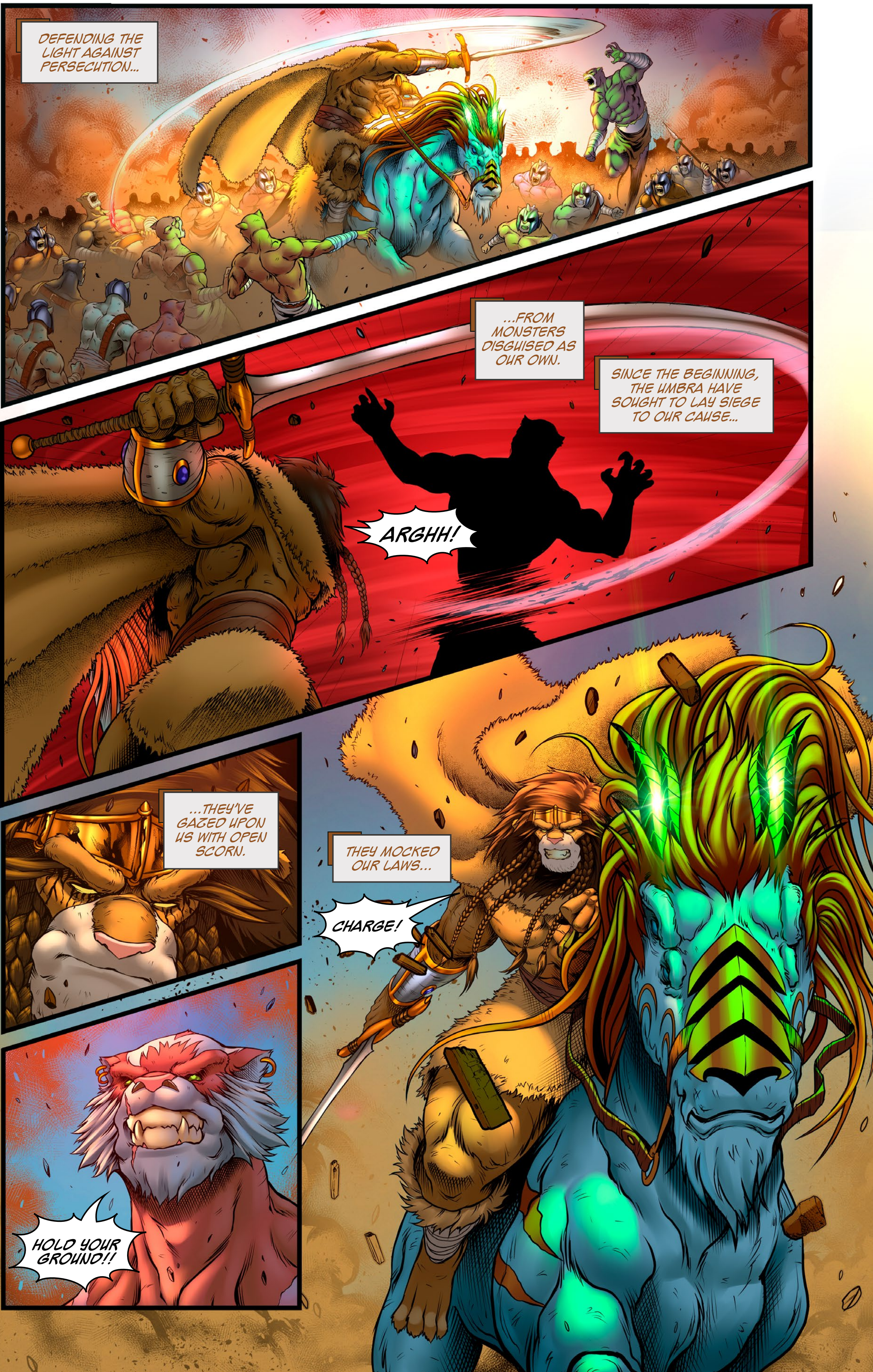

SWAAASH
ARGHH!
GRRRR
COMPOSE YOURSELVES!
PREPARE FOR THE NEXT WAVE!
KHAN, WE'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT, YOU AND I.
I NEED YOUR STRENGTH, OLD FRIEND.
TOGETHER, LET US SET AN EXAMPLE AND DEFEAT THOSE WHO OPPOSE THE MANDATES OF LION GOD.

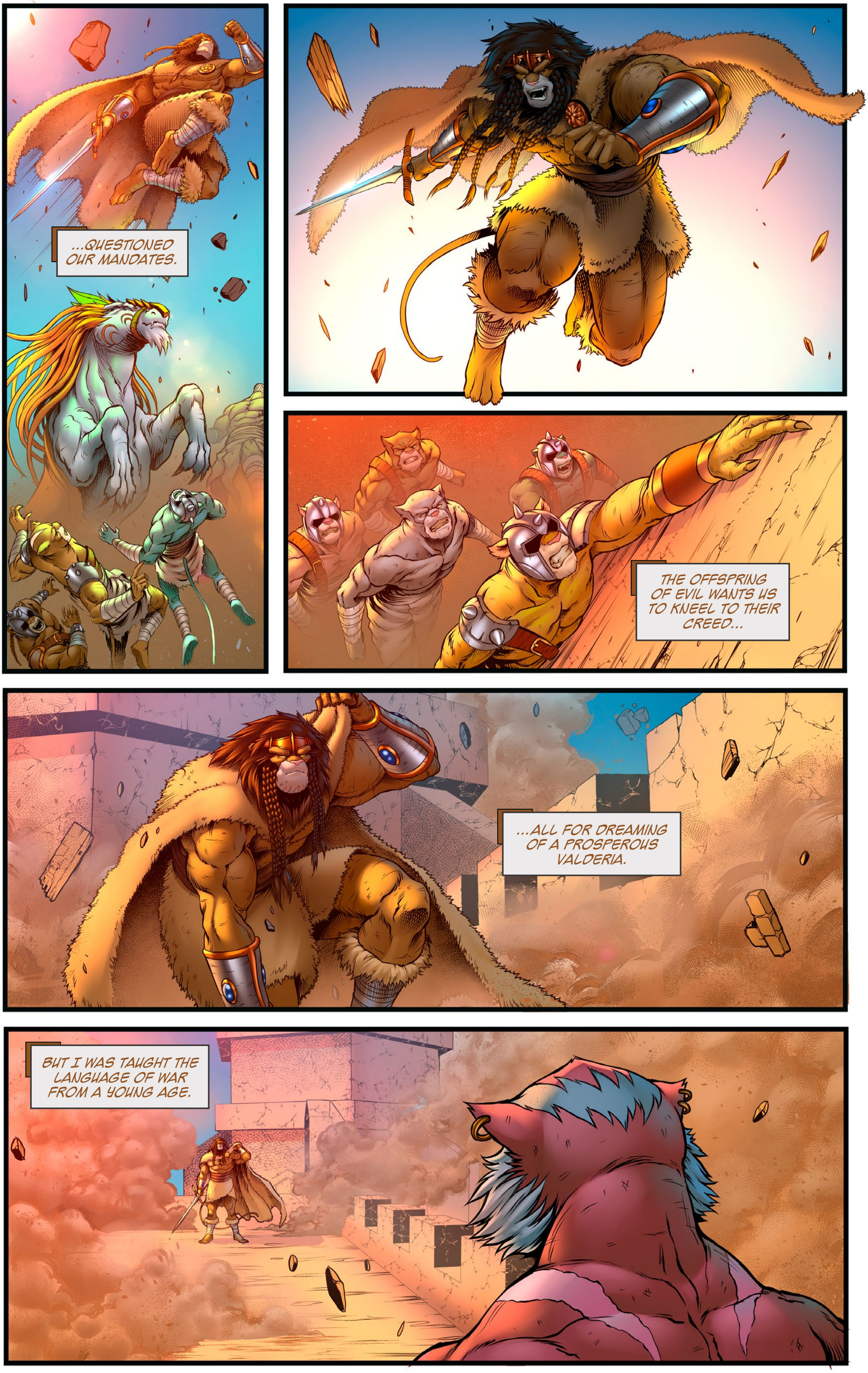


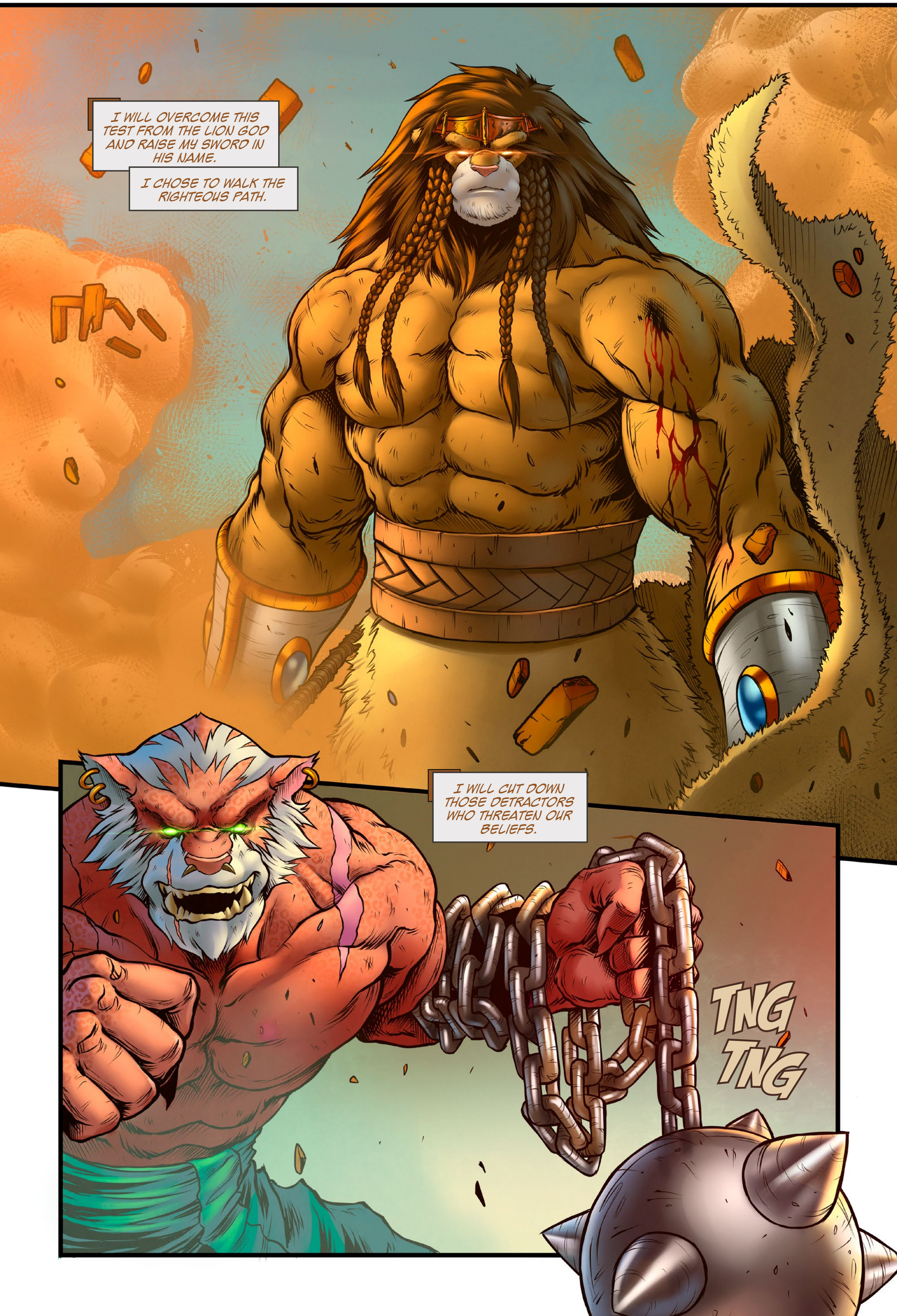
FOR VALDERIA!
AAAHHHHHHH!
THOOOOM
THOOOOM
THOOM
AAAHHHHHHH!
THOOM
THOOOOM
THOOOOM
THOOOOM
CRACK
CRACK
CRACK
CRACK
CLASH
CLASH
CLUNK
CLASH
CLUNK
FLOOOSH

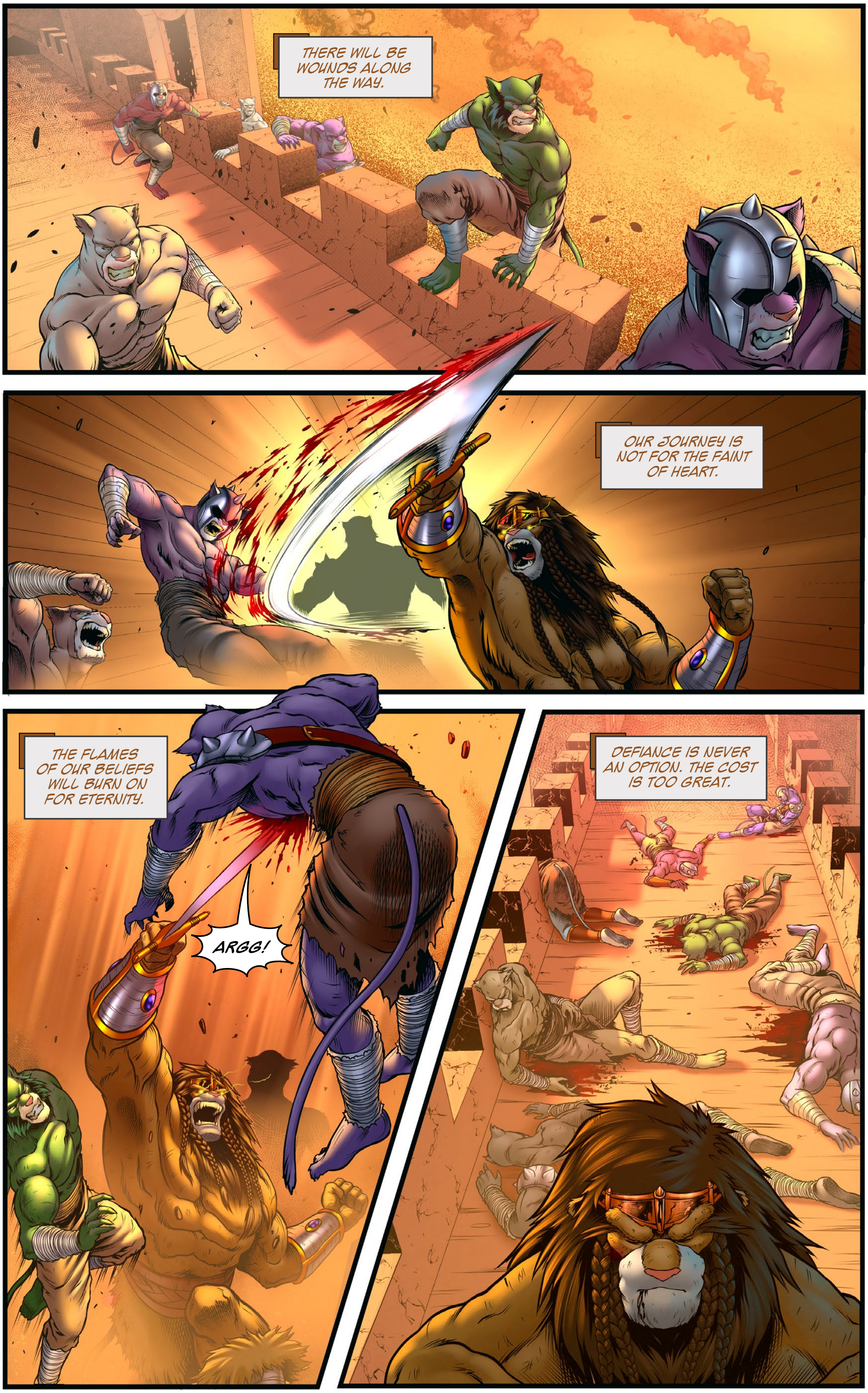
CONSUMED BY FERAL INSTINCTS TO CONQUER AS FAR AS THE EYE COULD SEE...

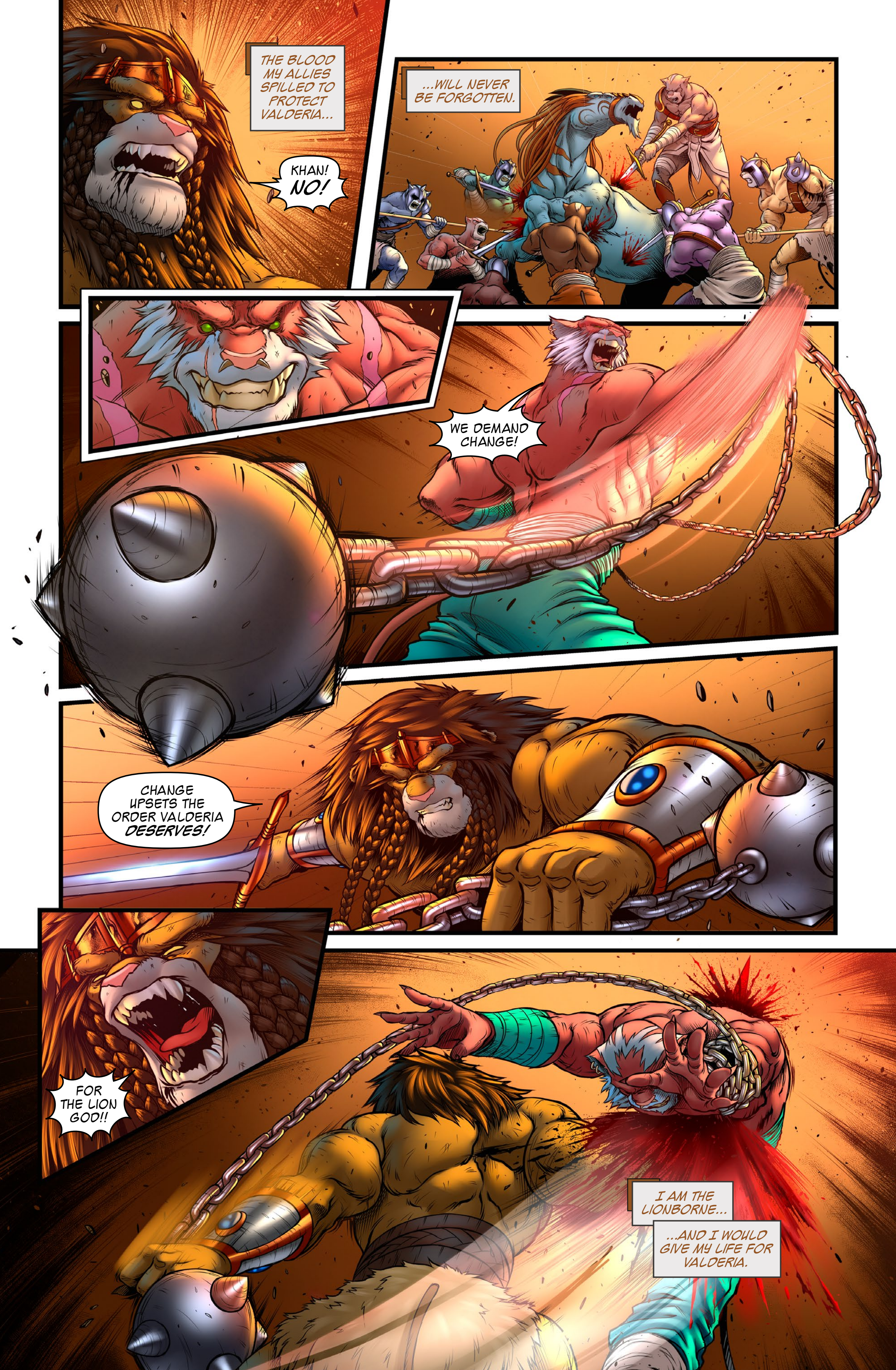
...MY ANCESTORS FOUGHT WITH PURE HEARTS AND MIGHTY STEEL.

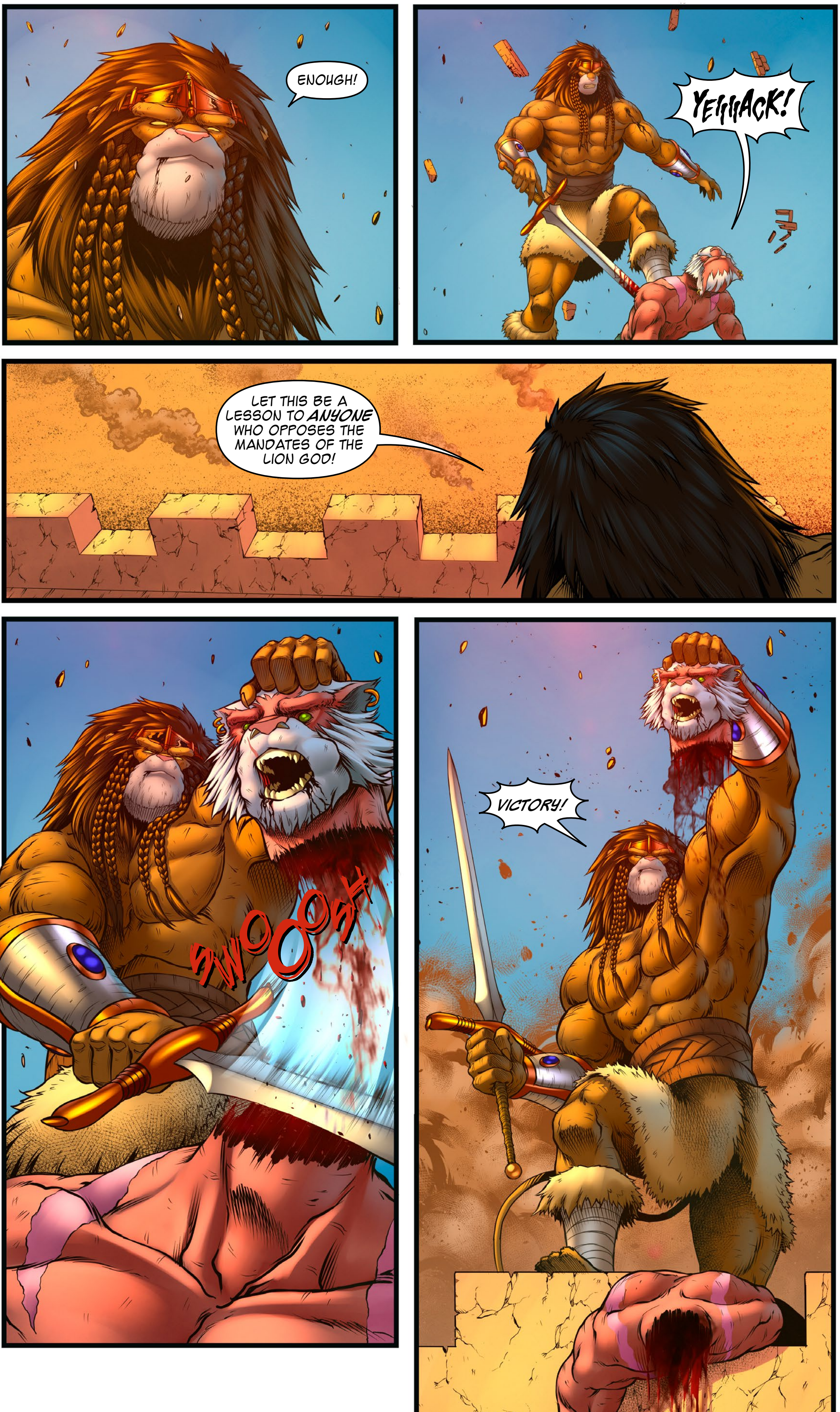

DEFENDING THE LIGHT AGAINST PERSECUTION...
...FROM MONSTERS DISGUISED AS OUR OWN.
SINCE THE BEGINNING, THE UMBRA HAVE SOUGHT TO LAY SIEGE TO OUR CAUSE...
ARGHH!
...THEY'VE GAZED UPON US WITH OPEN SCORN.
THEY MOCKED OUR LAWS...
CHARGE!
HOLD YOUR GROUND!!

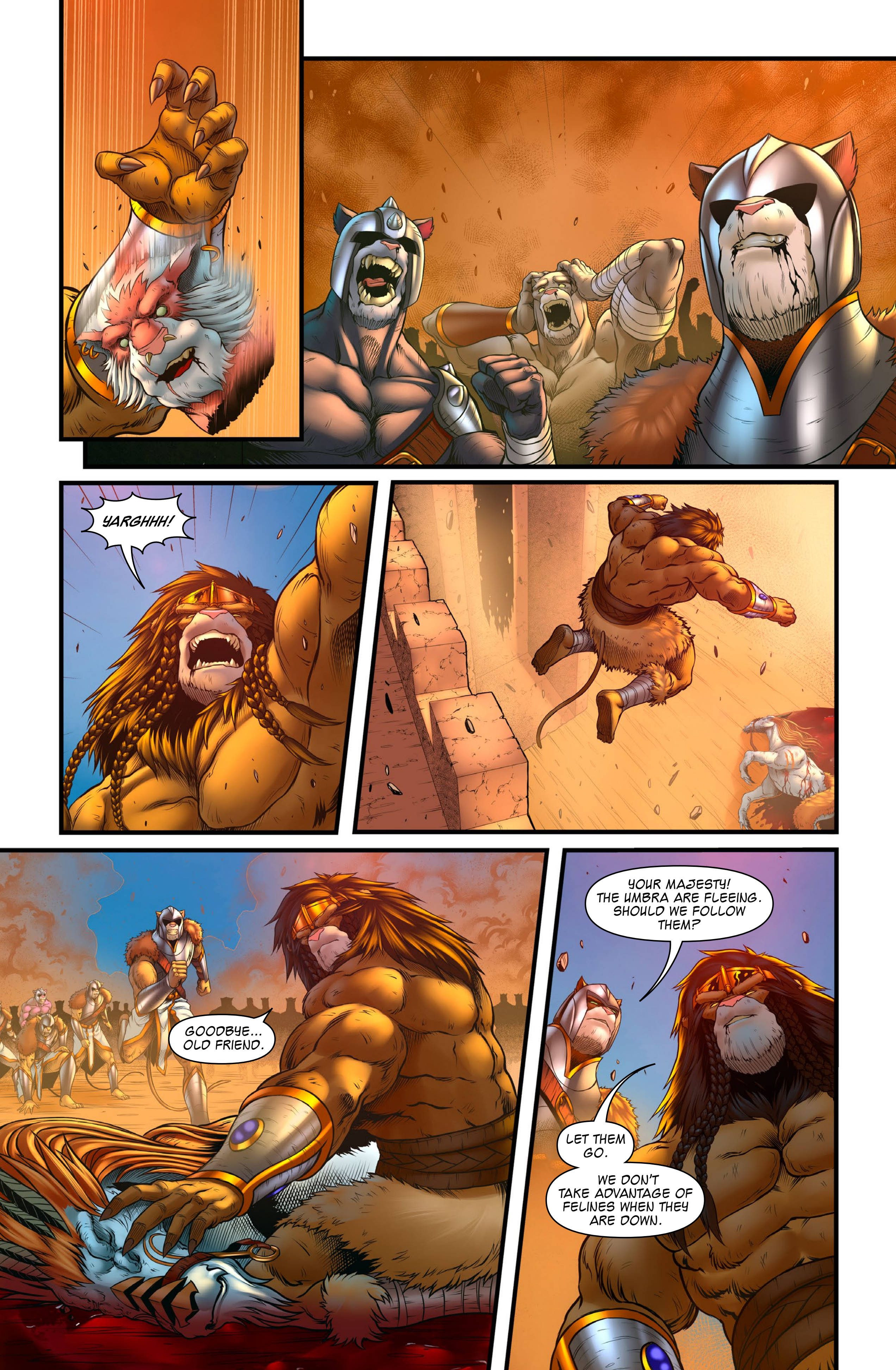

...QUESTIONED OUR MANDATES.
THE OFFSPRING OF EVIL WANTS US TO KNEEL TO THEIR CREED...
...ALL FOR DREAMING OF A PROSPEROUS VALDERIA.
BUT I WAS TAUGHT THE LANGUAGE OF WAR FROM A YOUNG AGE.

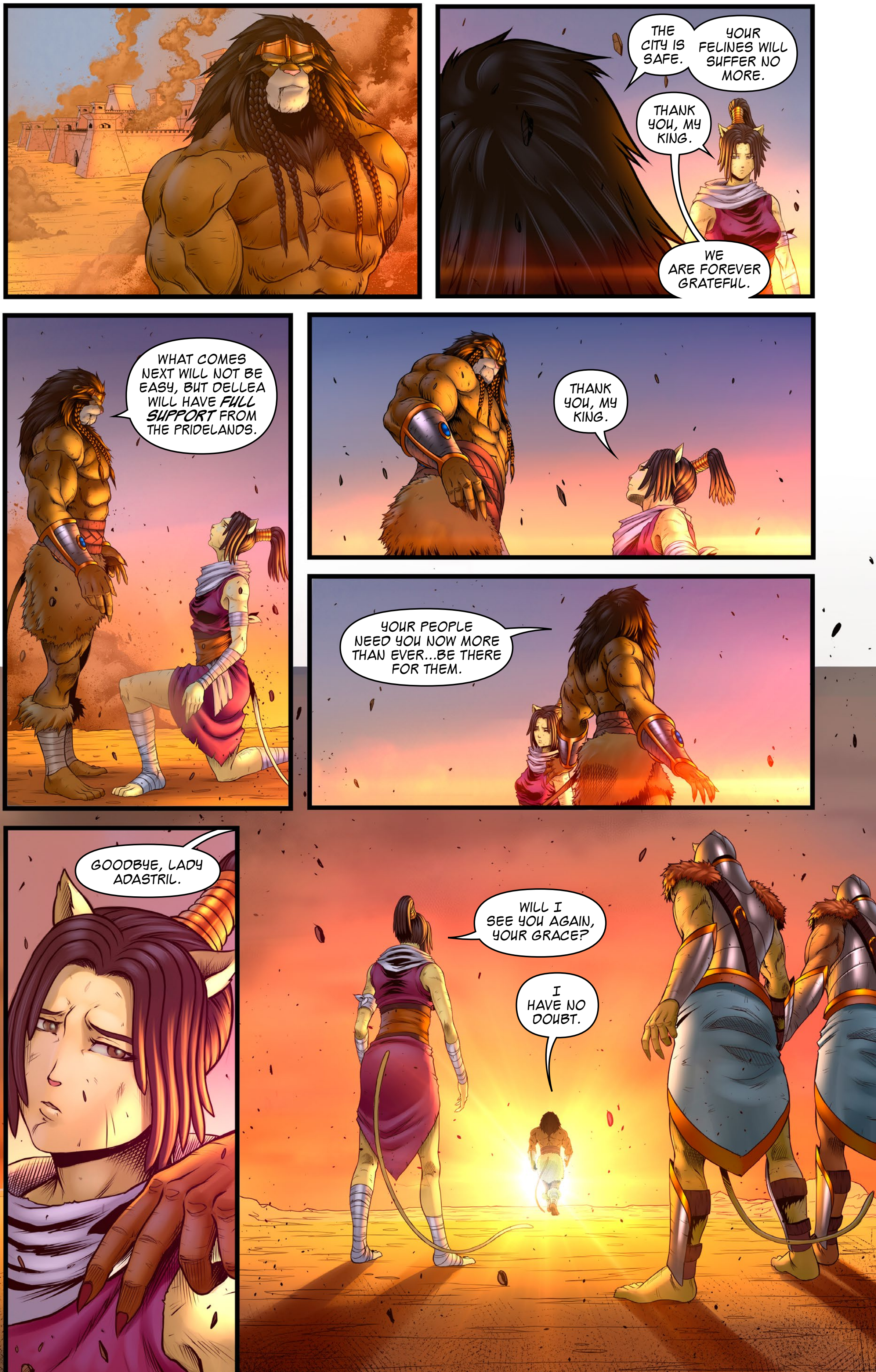

I WILL OVERCOME THIS TEST FROM THE LION GOD AND RAISE MY SWORD IN HIS NAME.
I CHOSE TO WALK THE RIGHTEOUS PATH.
I WILL CUT DOWN THOSE DETRACTORS WHO THREATEN OUR BELIEFS.
TNG TNG

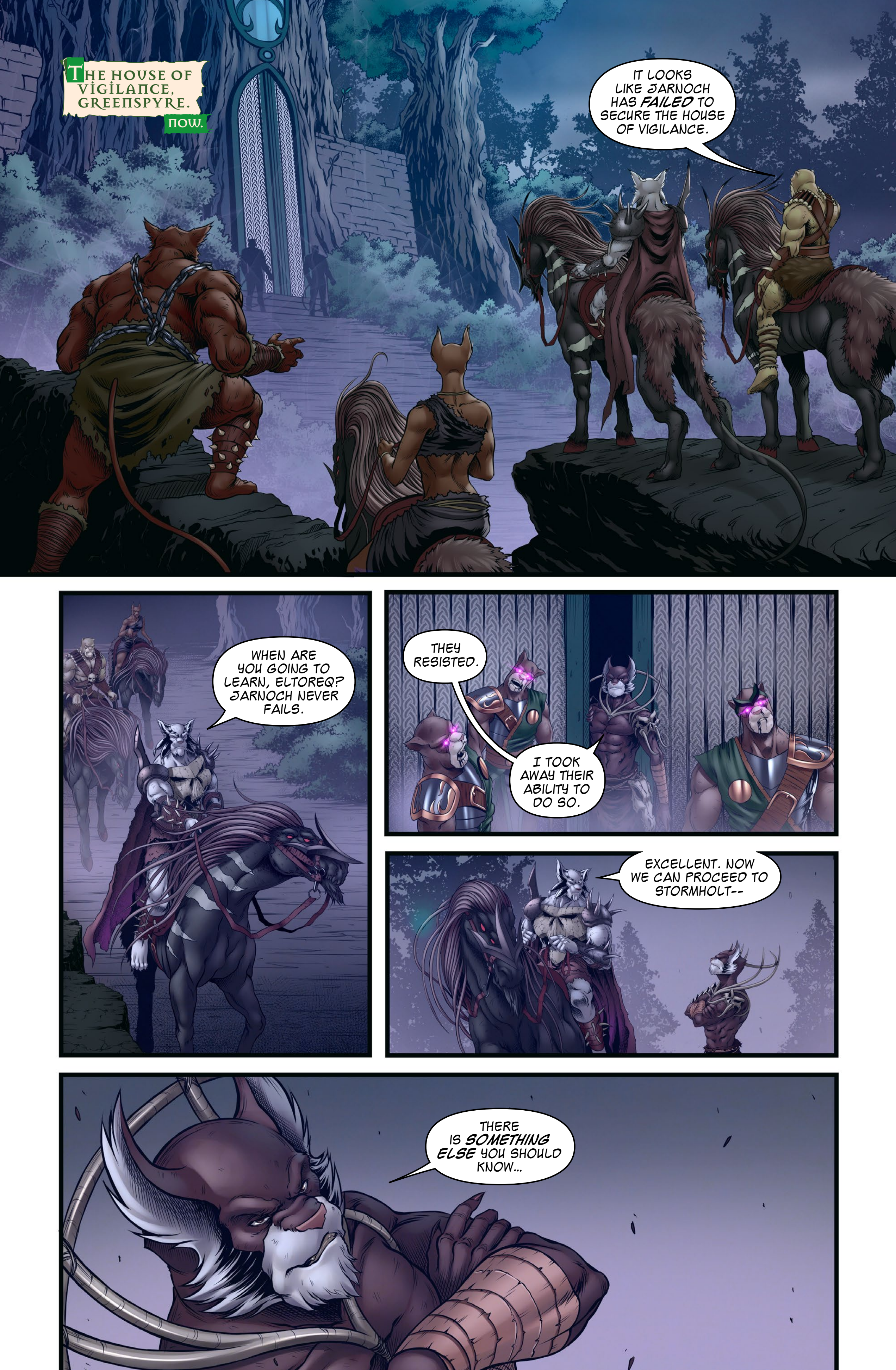

THERE WILL BE WOUNDS ALONG THE WAY.
OUR JOURNEY IS NOT FOR THE FAINT OF HEART.
THE FLAMES OF OUR BELIEFS WILL BURN ON FOR ETERNITY.
ARGG!
DEFIANCE IS NEVER AN OPTION. THE COST IS TOO GREAT.

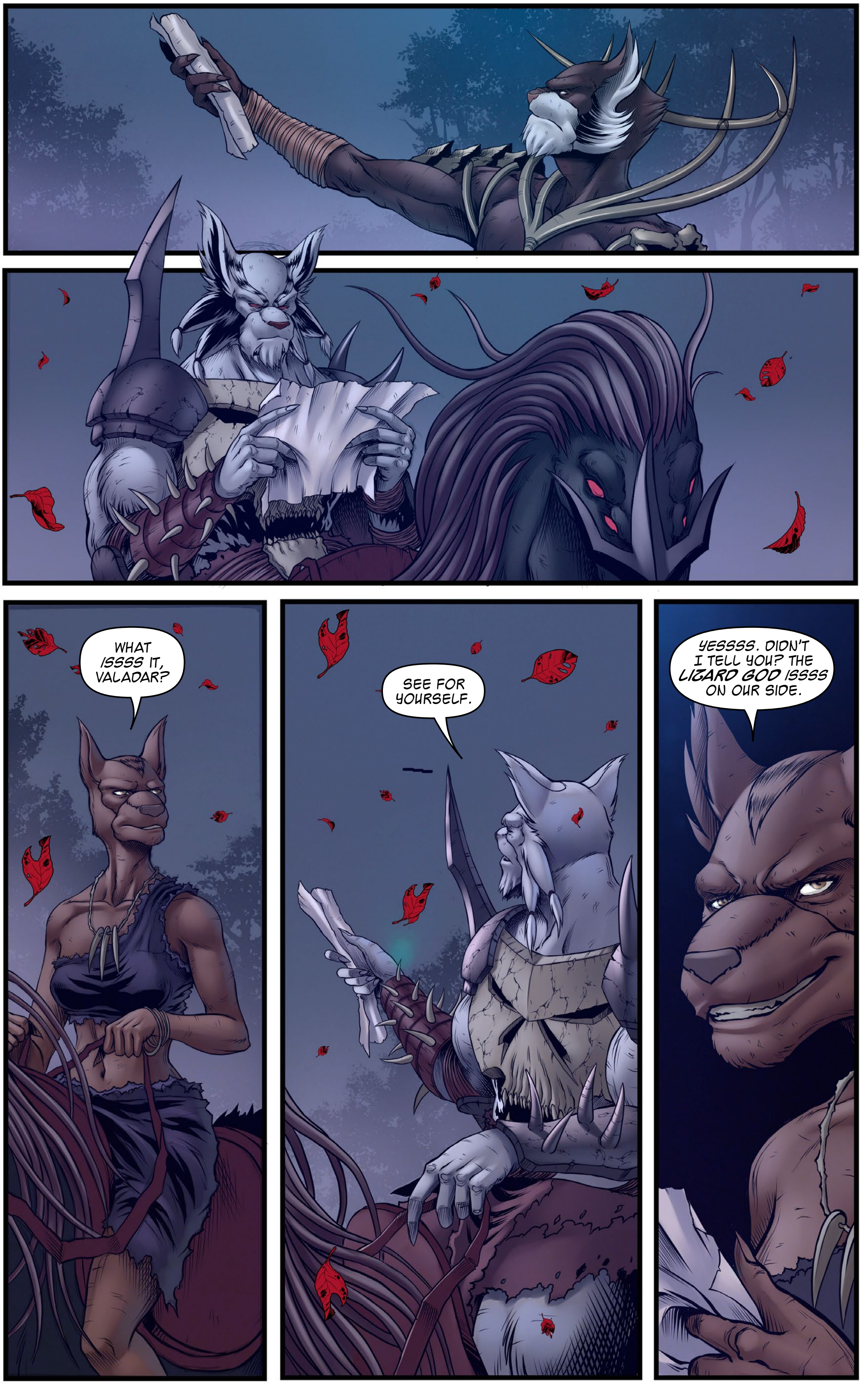

THE BLOOD MY ALLIES SPILLED TO PROTECT VALDERIA...
KHAN! *NO!*
...WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN.
WE DEMAND CHANGE!
CHANGE UPSETS THE ORDER VALDERIA *DESERVES!*
FOR THE LION GOD!!
I AM THE LIONBORNE...
...AND I WOULD GIVE MY LIFE FOR VALDERIA.

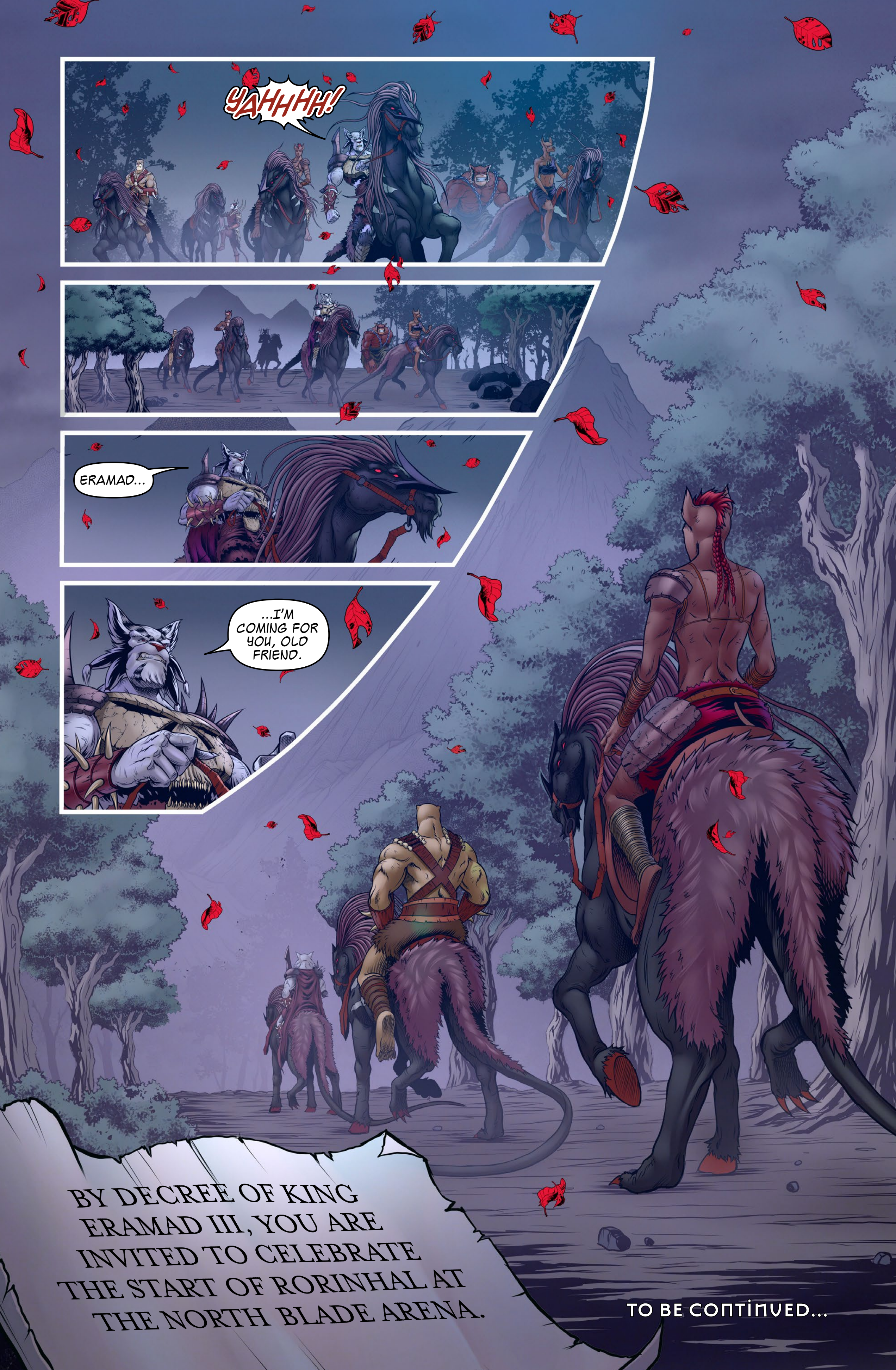

ENOUGH!
YEHHACK!
LET THIS BE A LESSON TO *ANYONE* WHO OPPOSES THE MANDATES OF THE LION GOD!
SWOOOSH
VICTORY!


YARGHHH!
GOODBYE... OLD FRIEND.
YOUR MAJESTY! THE UMBRA ARE FLEEING. SHOULD WE FOLLOW THEM?
LET THEM GO.
WE DON'T TAKE ADVANTAGE OF FELINES WHEN THEY ARE DOWN.


THE CITY IS SAFE.
YOUR FELINES WILL SUFFER NO MORE.
THANK YOU, MY KING.
WE ARE FOREVER GRATEFUL.
WHAT COMES NEXT WILL NOT BE EASY, BUT DELLEA WILL HAVE ***FULL SUPPORT*** FROM THE PRIDELANDS.
THANK YOU, MY KING.
YOUR PEOPLE NEED YOU NOW MORE THAN EVER...BE THERE FOR THEM.
GOODBYE, LADY ADASTRIL.
WILL I SEE YOU AGAIN, YOUR GRACE?
I HAVE NO DOUBT.


THE HOUSE OF VIGILANCE, GREENSPYRE.
NOW.
IT LOOKS LIKE JARNOCH HAS *FAILED* TO SECURE THE HOUSE OF VIGILANCE.
WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO LEARN, ELTOREQ? JARNOCH NEVER FAILS.
THEY RESISTED.
I TOOK AWAY THEIR ABILITY TO DO SO.
EXCELLENT. NOW WE CAN PROCEED TO STORMHOLT--
THERE IS *SOMETHING ELSE* YOU SHOULD KNOW...

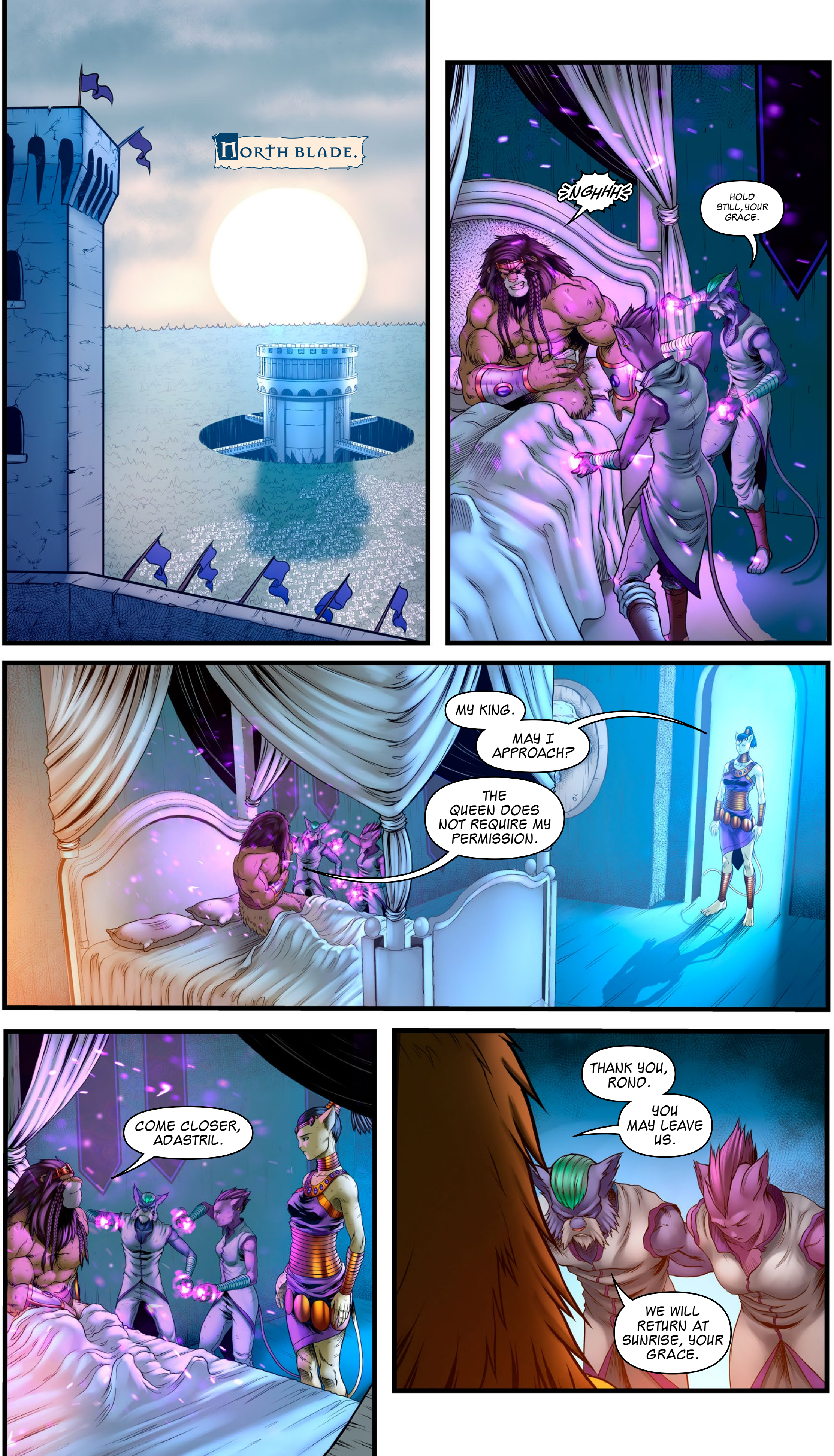

WHAT *ISSSS* IT, VALADAR?
SEE FOR YOURSELF.
YESSSS. DIDN'T I TELL YOU? THE ***LIZARD GOD*** *ISSSS* ON OUR SIDE.

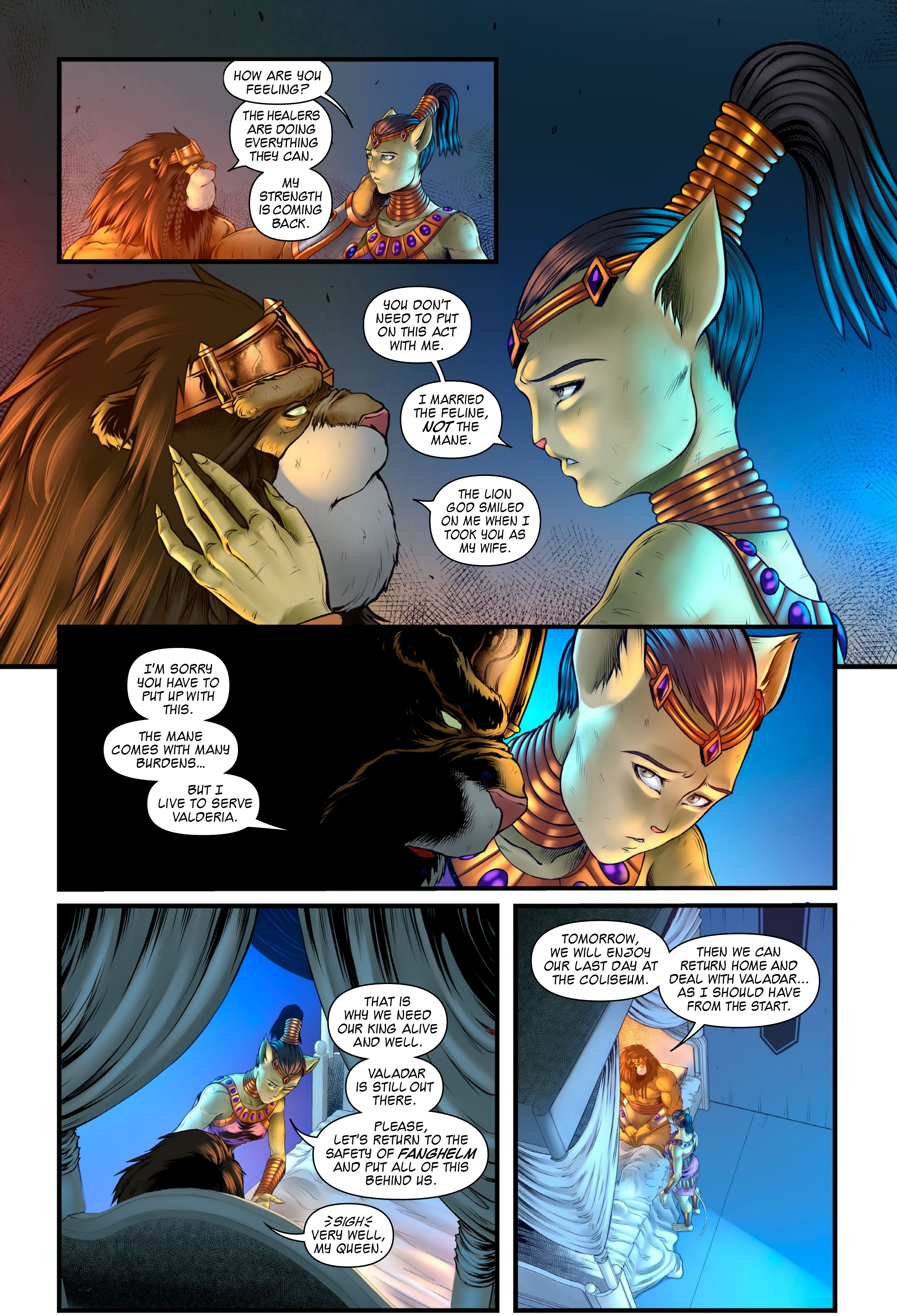

YAHHHH!
ERAMAD...
...I'M COMING FOR YOU, OLD FRIEND.
BY DECREE OF KING ERAMAD III, YOU ARE INVITED TO CELEBRATE THE START OF RORINHAL AT THE NORTH BLADE ARENA.
TO BE CONTINUED...

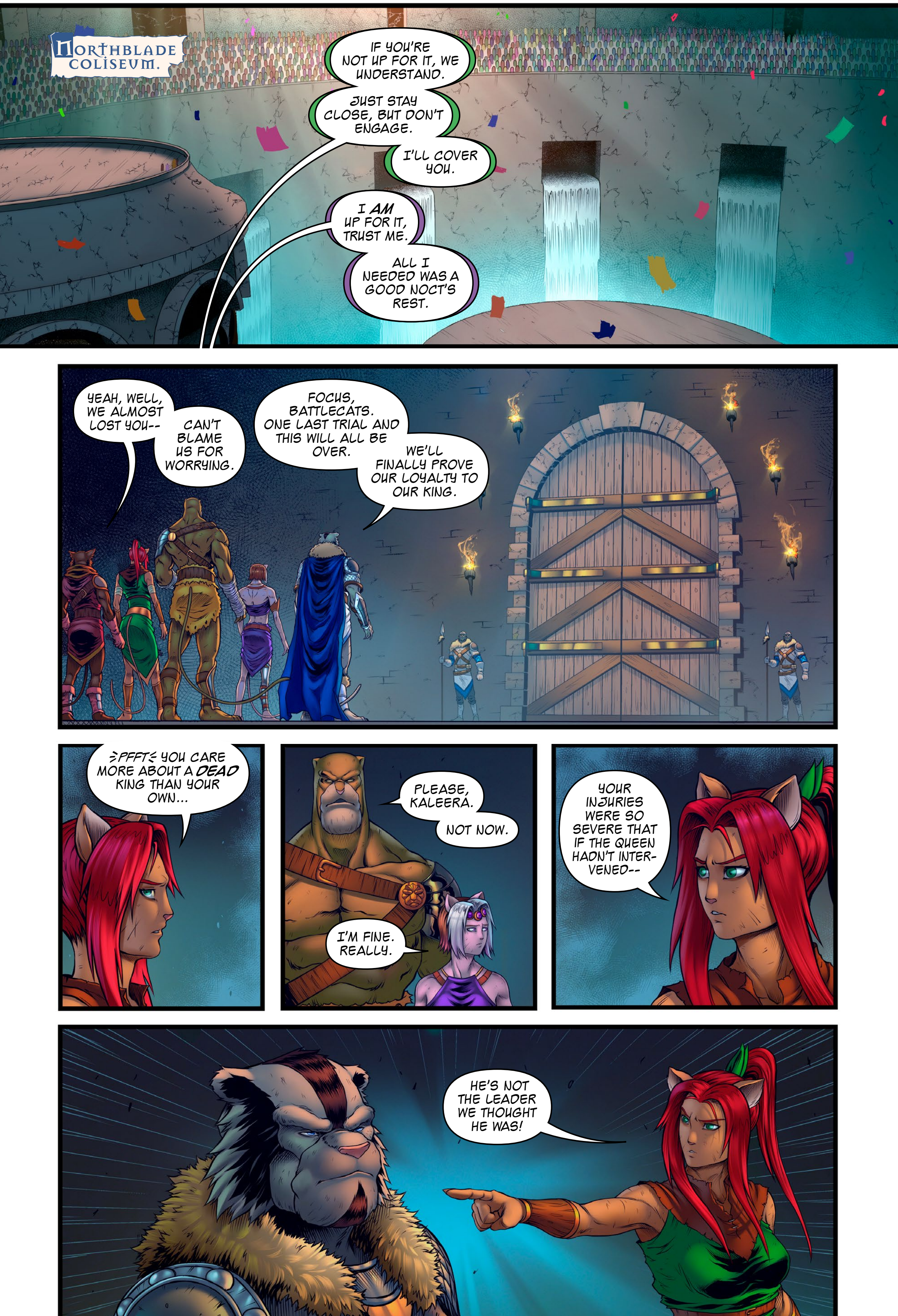
THE FALL

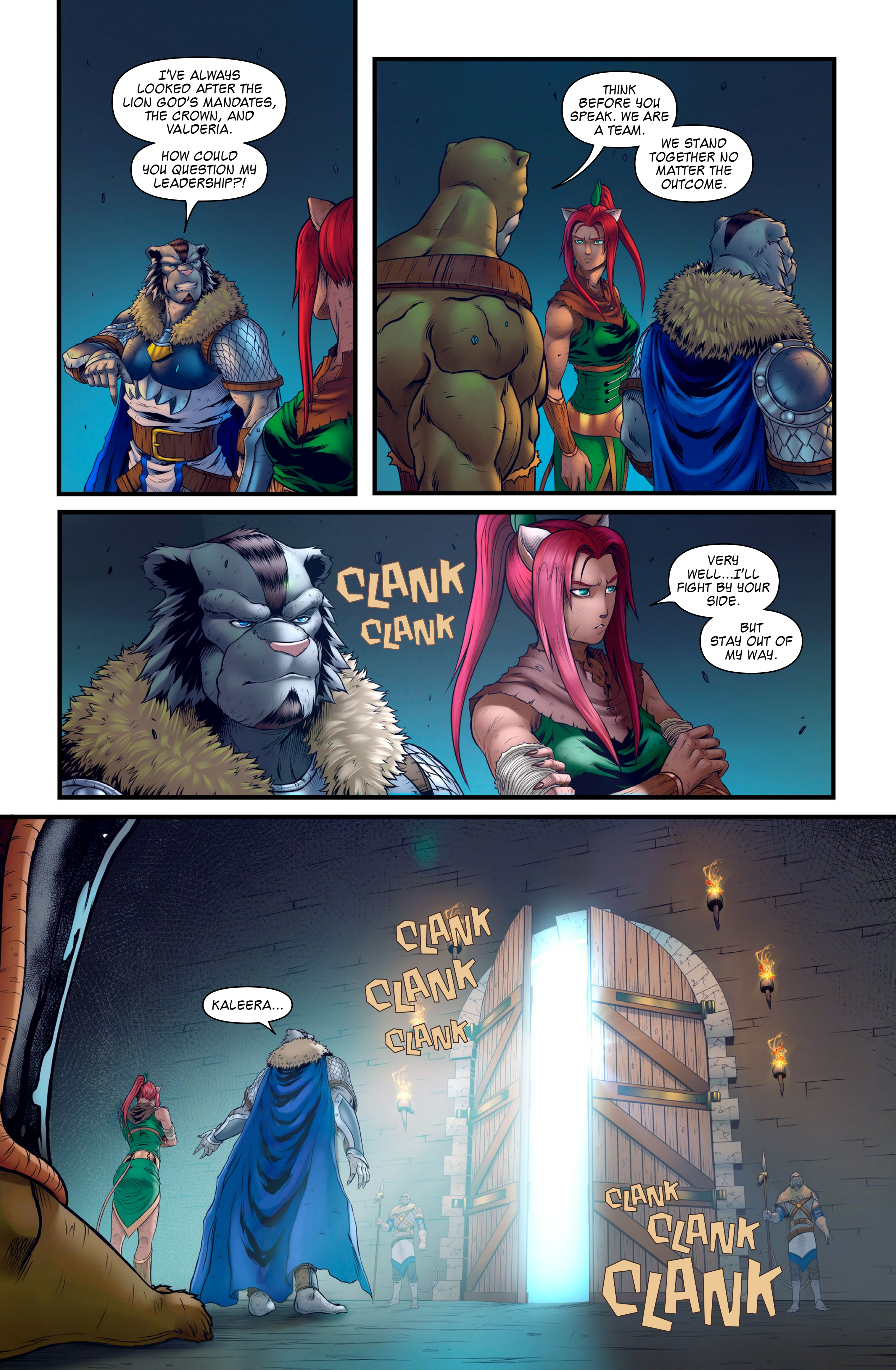
5

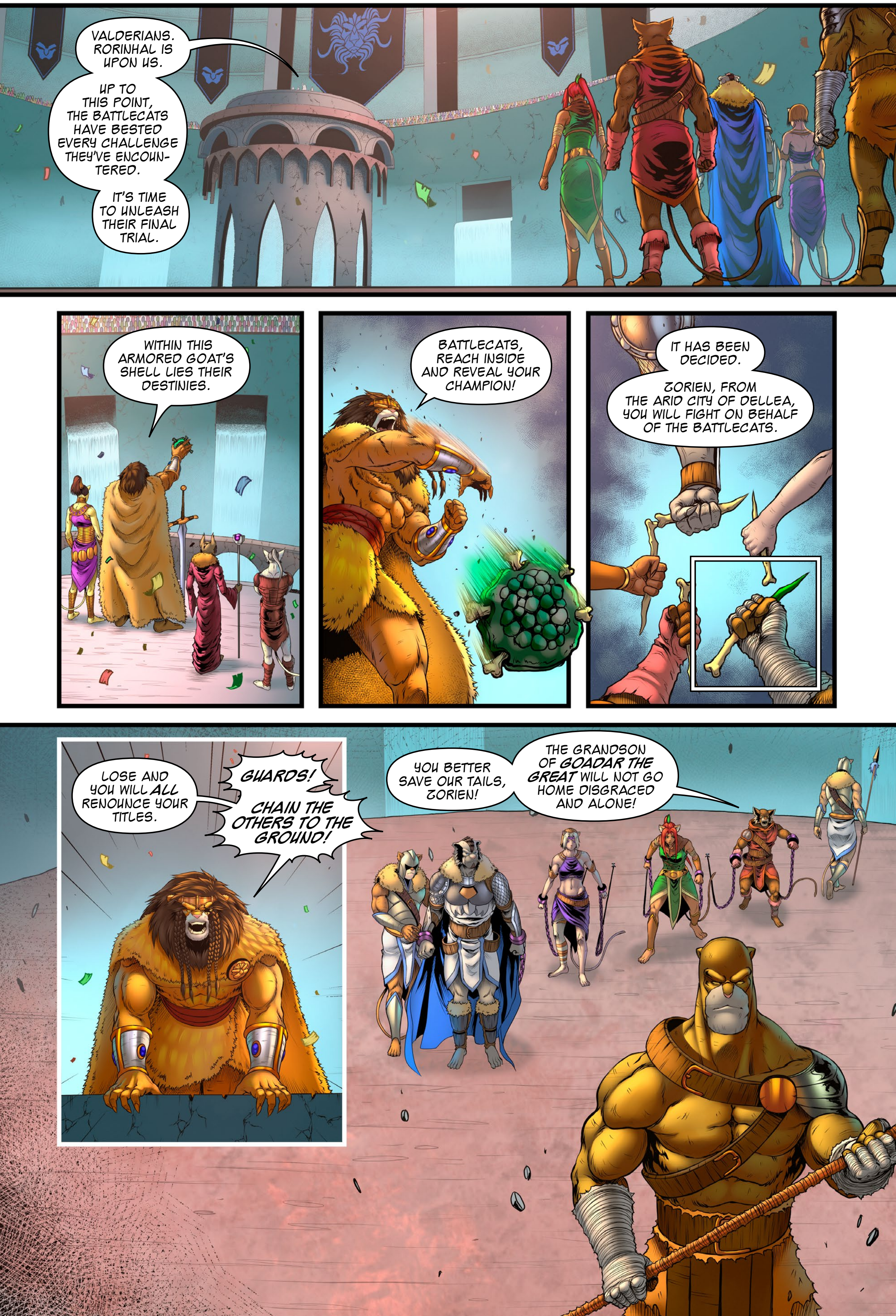
Chapter Five

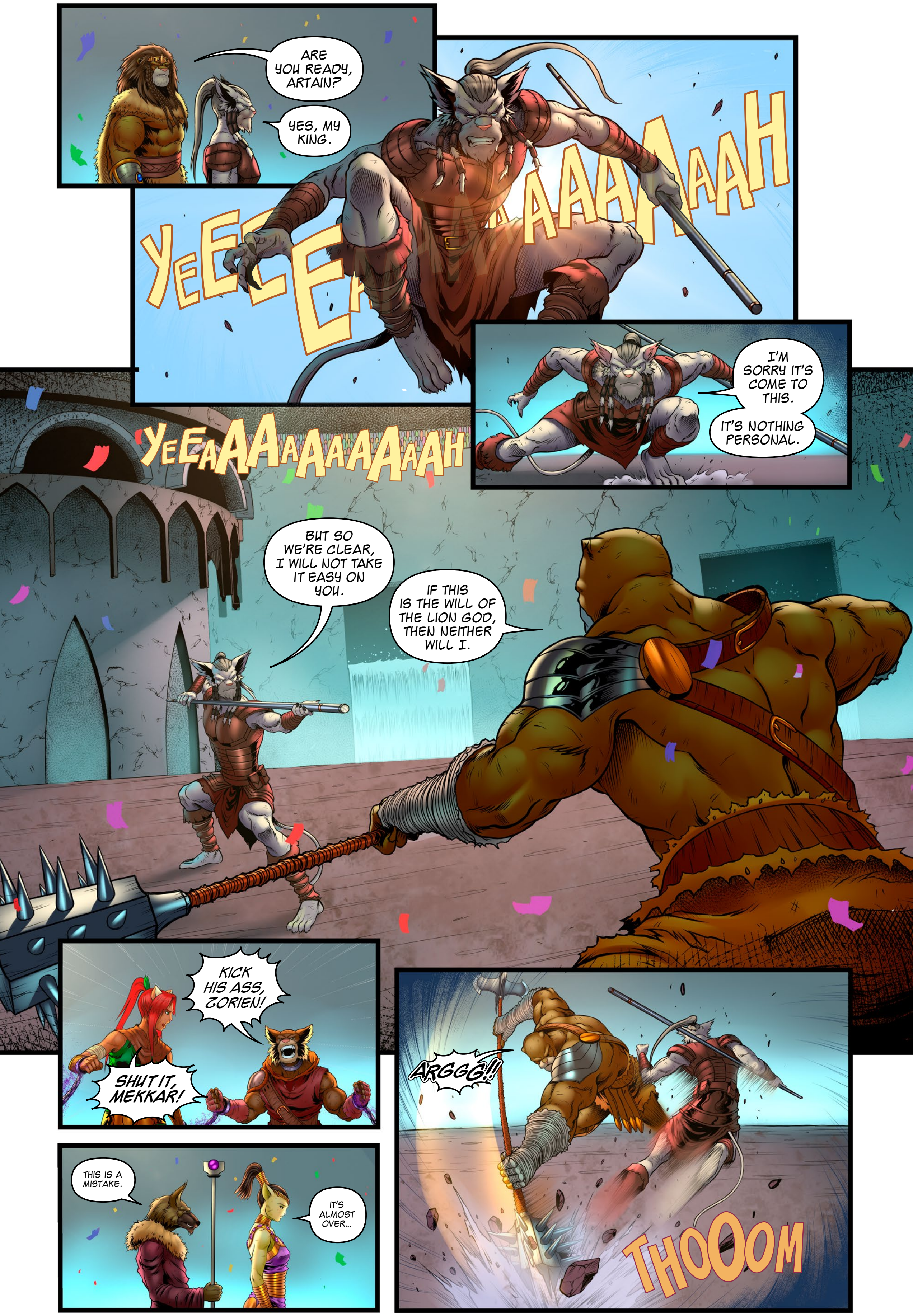

NORTH BLADE.
ENGHHH
HOLD STILL, YOUR GRACE.
MY KING.
MAY I APPROACH?
THE QUEEN DOES NOT REQUIRE MY PERMISSION.
COME CLOSER, ADASTRIL.
THANK YOU, RONO.
YOU MAY LEAVE US.
WE WILL RETURN AT SUNRISE, YOUR GRACE.

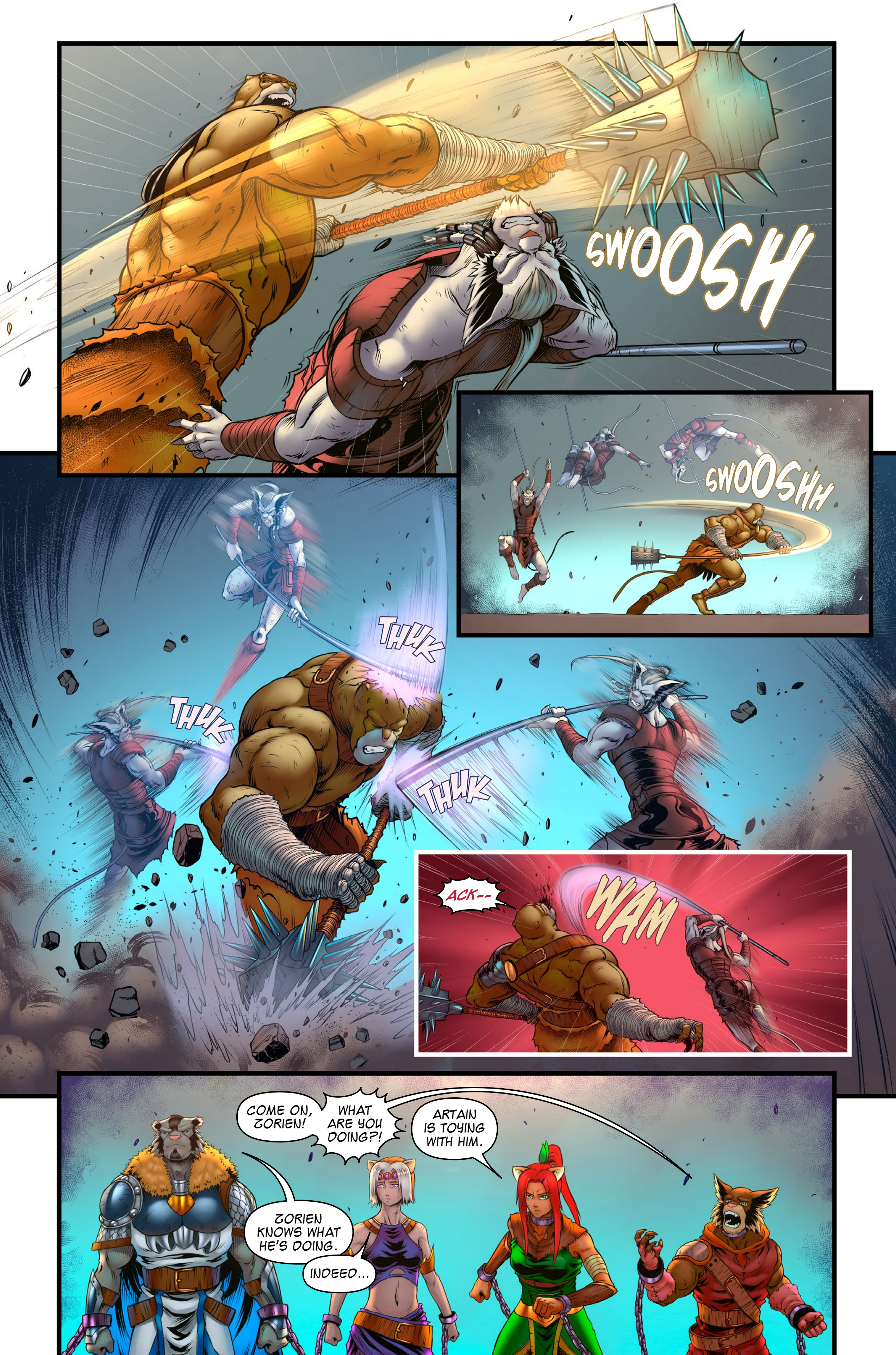

HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
THE HEALERS ARE DOING EVERYTHING THEY CAN.
MY STRENGTH IS COMING BACK.
YOU DON'T NEED TO PUT ON THIS ACT WITH ME.
I MARRIED THE FELINE, *NOT* THE MANE.
THE LION GOD SMILED ON ME WHEN I TOOK YOU AS MY WIFE.
I'M SORRY YOU HAVE TO PUT UP WITH THIS.
THE MANE COMES WITH MANY BURDENS...
BUT I LIVE TO SERVE VALDERIA.
THAT IS WHY WE NEED OUR KING ALIVE AND WELL.
VALADAR IS STILL OUT THERE.
PLEASE, LET'S RETURN TO THE SAFETY OF *FANGHELM* AND PUT ALL OF THIS BEHIND US.
SIGH VERY WELL, MY QUEEN.
TOMORROW, WE WILL ENJOY OUR LAST DAY AT THE COLISEUM.
THEN WE CAN RETURN HOME AND DEAL WITH VALADAR... AS I SHOULD HAVE FROM THE START.

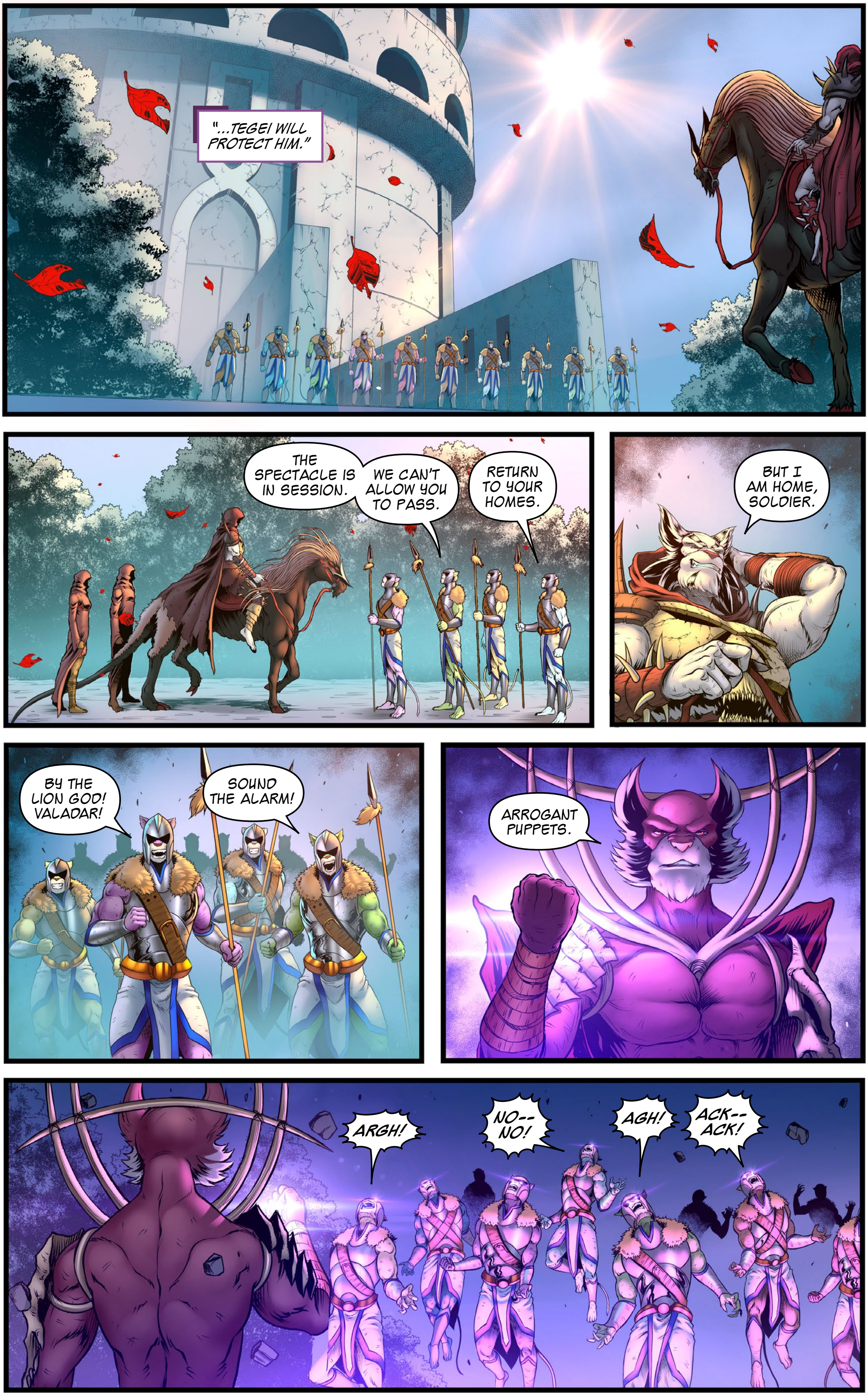

NORTHBLADE COLISEUM.
IF YOU'RE NOT UP FOR IT, WE UNDERSTAND.
JUST STAY CLOSE, BUT DON'T ENGAGE.
I'LL COVER YOU.
I *AM* UP FOR IT, TRUST ME.
ALL I NEEDED WAS A GOOD NOCT'S REST.
YEAH, WELL, WE ALMOST LOST YOU--
CAN'T BLAME US FOR WORRYING.
FOCUS, BATTLECATS. ONE LAST TRIAL AND THIS WILL ALL BE OVER.
WE'LL FINALLY PROVE OUR LOYALTY TO OUR KING.
>PFFT< YOU CARE MORE ABOUT A *DEAD* KING THAN YOUR OWN...
PLEASE, KALEERA.
NOT NOW.
I'M FINE. REALLY.
YOUR INJURIES WERE SO SEVERE THAT IF THE QUEEN HADN'T INTERVENED--
HE'S NOT THE LEADER WE THOUGHT HE WAS!

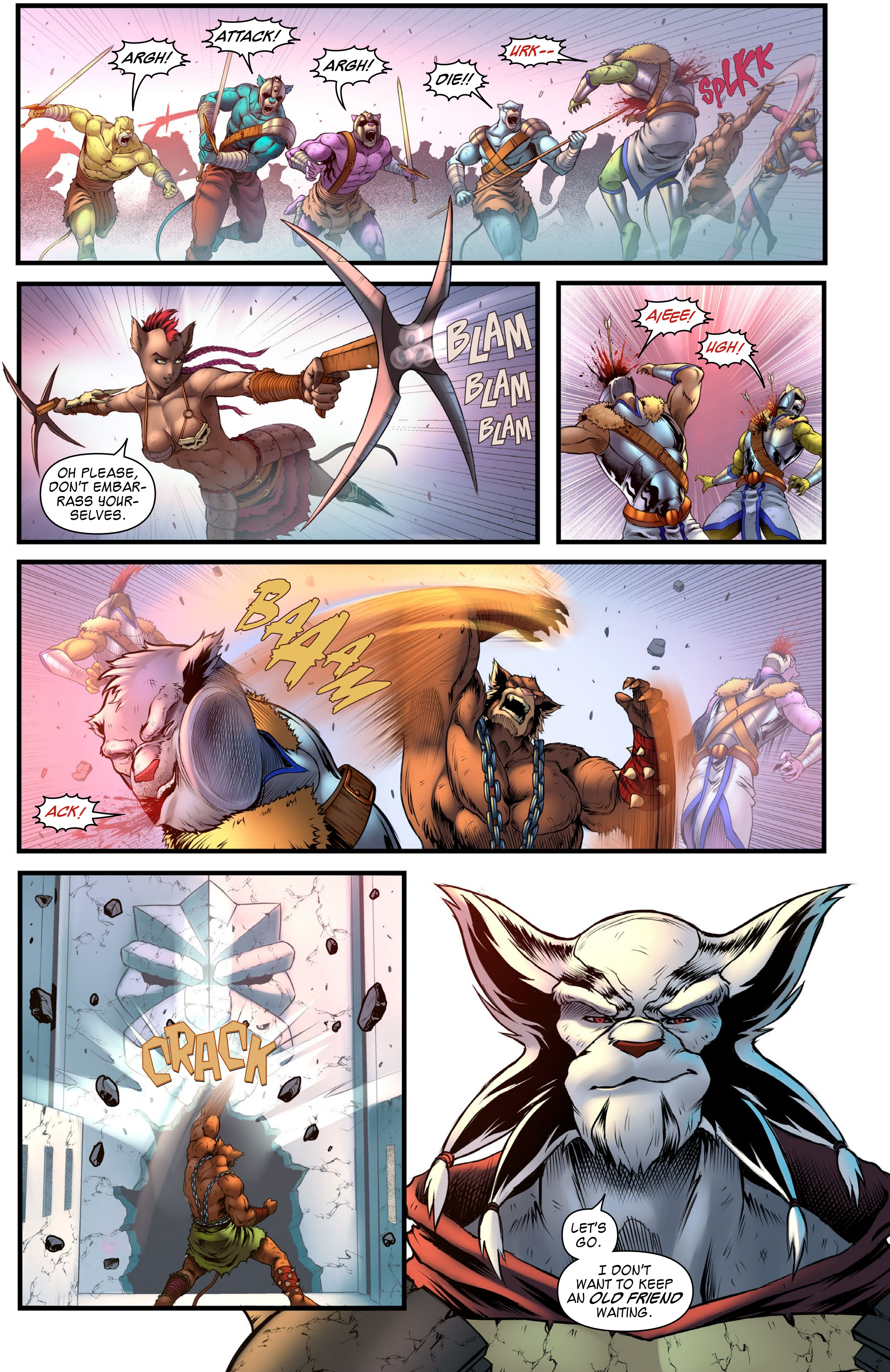

I'VE ALWAYS LOOKED AFTER THE LION GOD'S MANDATES, THE CROWN, AND VALDERIA.
HOW COULD YOU QUESTION MY LEADERSHIP?!
THINK BEFORE YOU SPEAK. WE ARE A TEAM.
WE STAND TOGETHER NO MATTER THE OUTCOME.
CLANK
CLANK
VERY WELL...I'LL FIGHT BY YOUR SIDE.
BUT STAY OUT OF MY WAY.
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
KALEERA...
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK

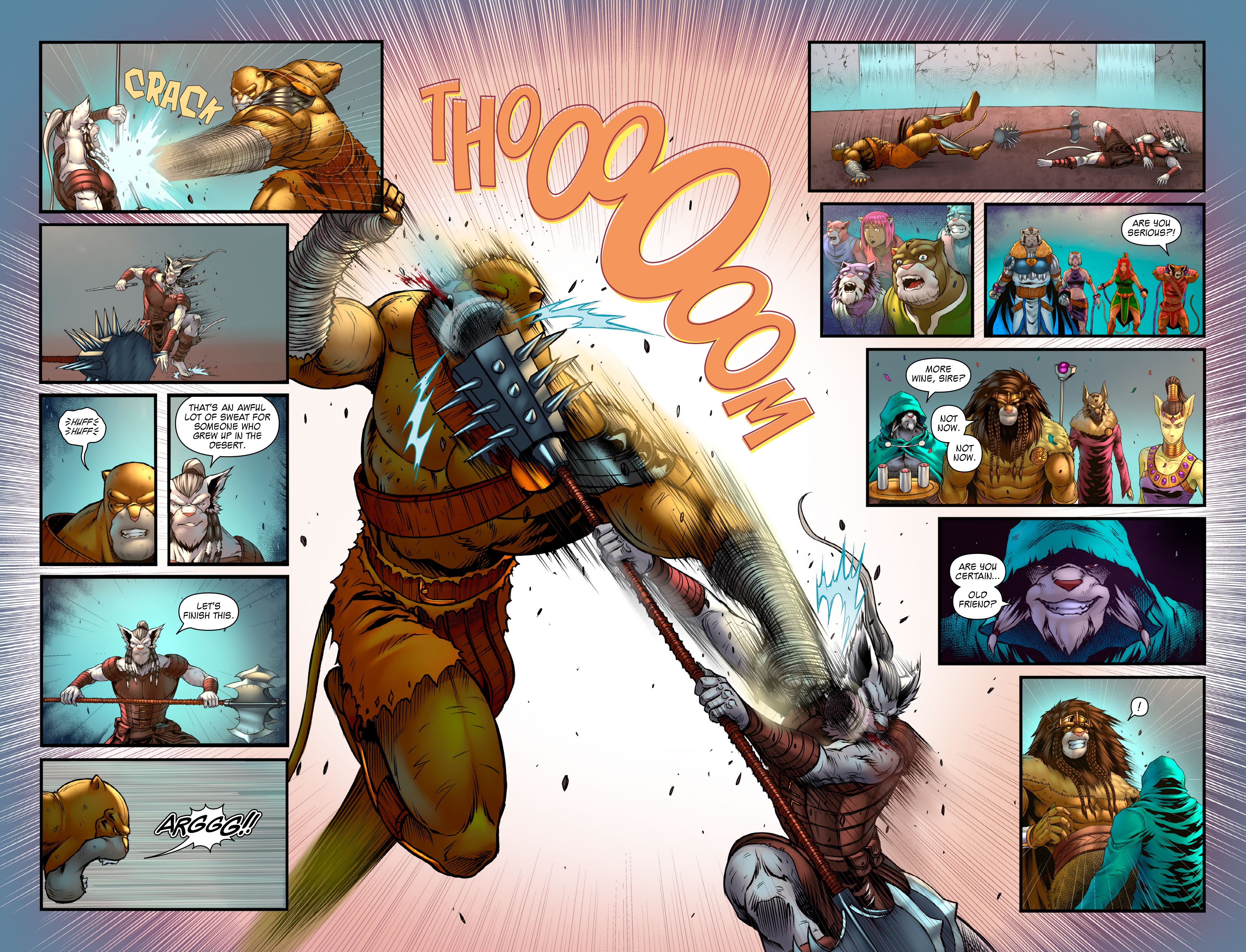

VALDERIANS. RORINHAL IS UPON US.
UP TO THIS POINT, THE BATTLECATS HAVE BESTED EVERY CHALLENGE THEY'VE ENCOUNTERED.
IT'S TIME TO UNLEASH THEIR FINAL TRIAL.
WITHIN THIS ARMORED GOAT'S SHELL LIES THEIR DESTINIES.
BATTLECATS, REACH INSIDE AND REVEAL YOUR CHAMPION!
IT HAS BEEN DECIDED.
ZORIEN, FROM THE ARID CITY OF DELLEA, YOU WILL FIGHT ON BEHALF OF THE BATTLECATS.
LOSE AND YOU WILL *ALL* RENOUNCE YOUR TITLES.
GUARDS!
CHAIN THE OTHERS TO THE GROUND!
YOU BETTER SAVE OUR TAILS, ZORIEN!
THE GRANDSON OF *GOADAR THE GREAT* WILL NOT GO HOME DISGRACED AND ALONE!

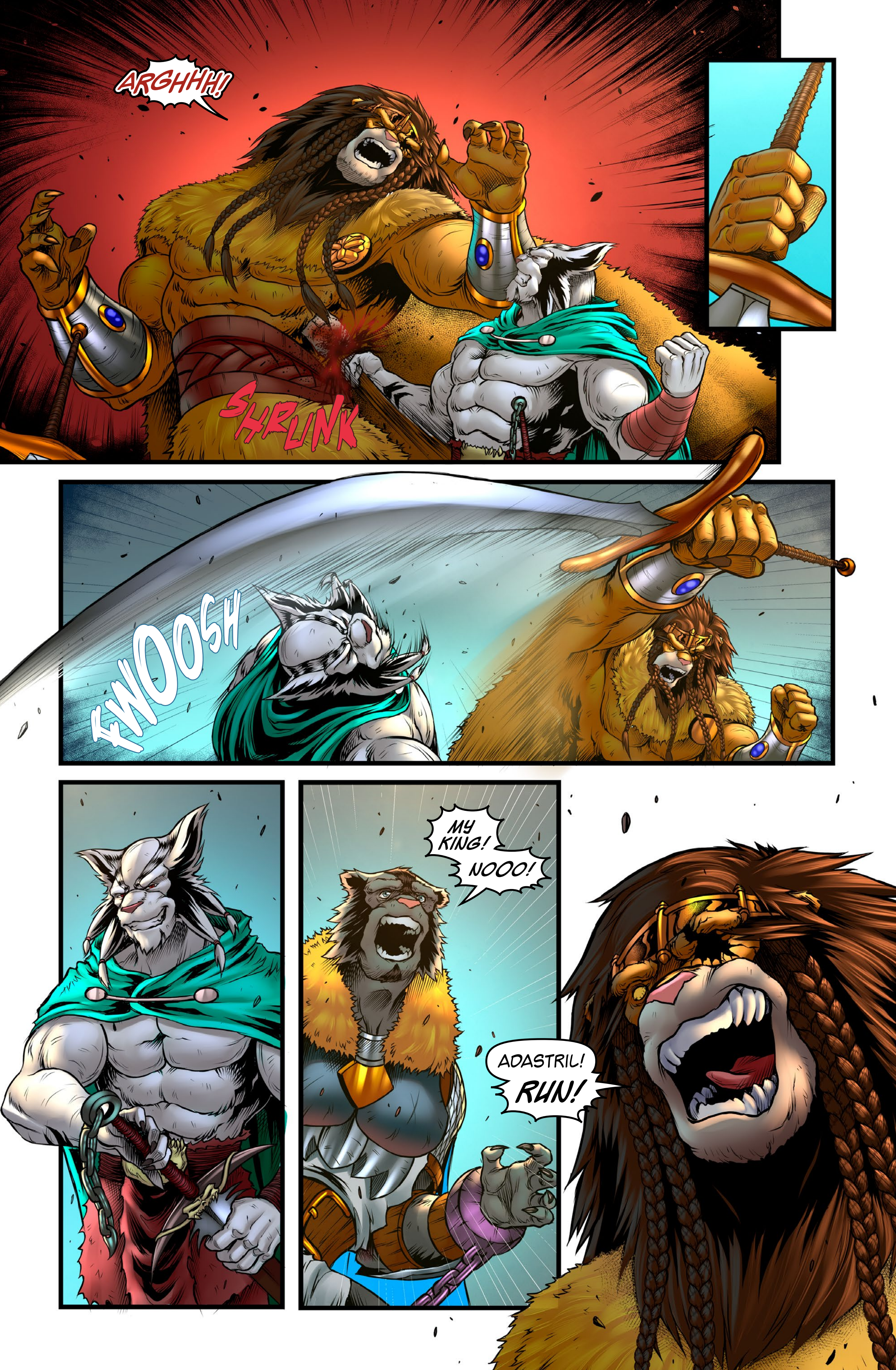

ARE YOU READY, ARTAIN?
YES, MY KING.
YEEEEAAAAAAAH
I'M SORRY IT'S COME TO THIS.
IT'S NOTHING PERSONAL.
YEEAAAAAAAAAAAH
BUT SO WE'RE CLEAR, I WILL NOT TAKE IT EASY ON YOU.
IF THIS IS THE WILL OF THE LION GOD, THEN NEITHER WILL I.
KICK HIS ASS, ZORIEN!
SHUT IT, MEKKAR!
ARGGG!!
THOOOM
THIS IS A MISTAKE.
IT'S ALMOST OVER...

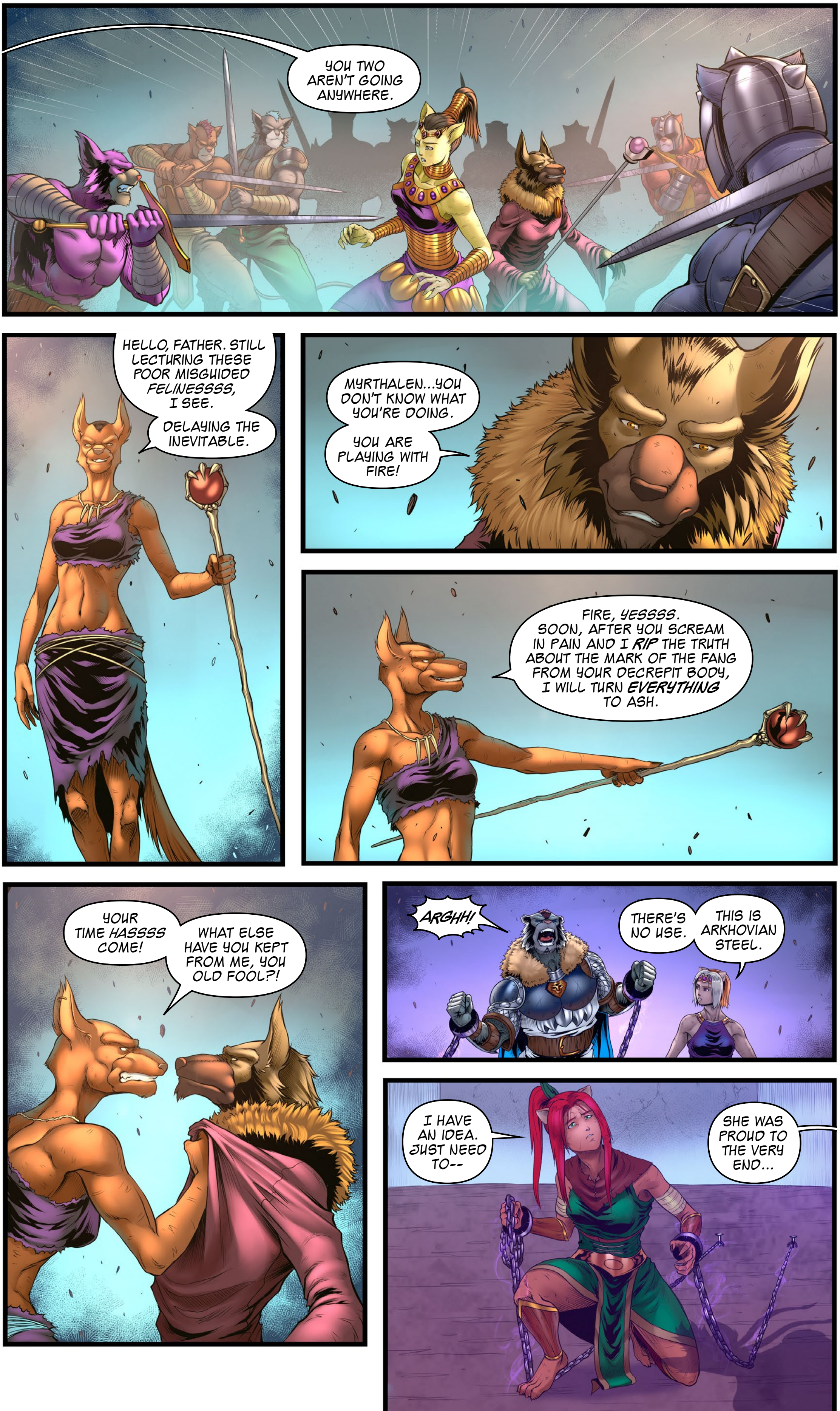

SWOOSH
SWOOSHH
THUK
THUK
THUK
ACK--
WAM
COME ON, ZORIEN!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
ARTAIN IS TOYING WITH HIM.
ZORIEN KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING.
INDEED...

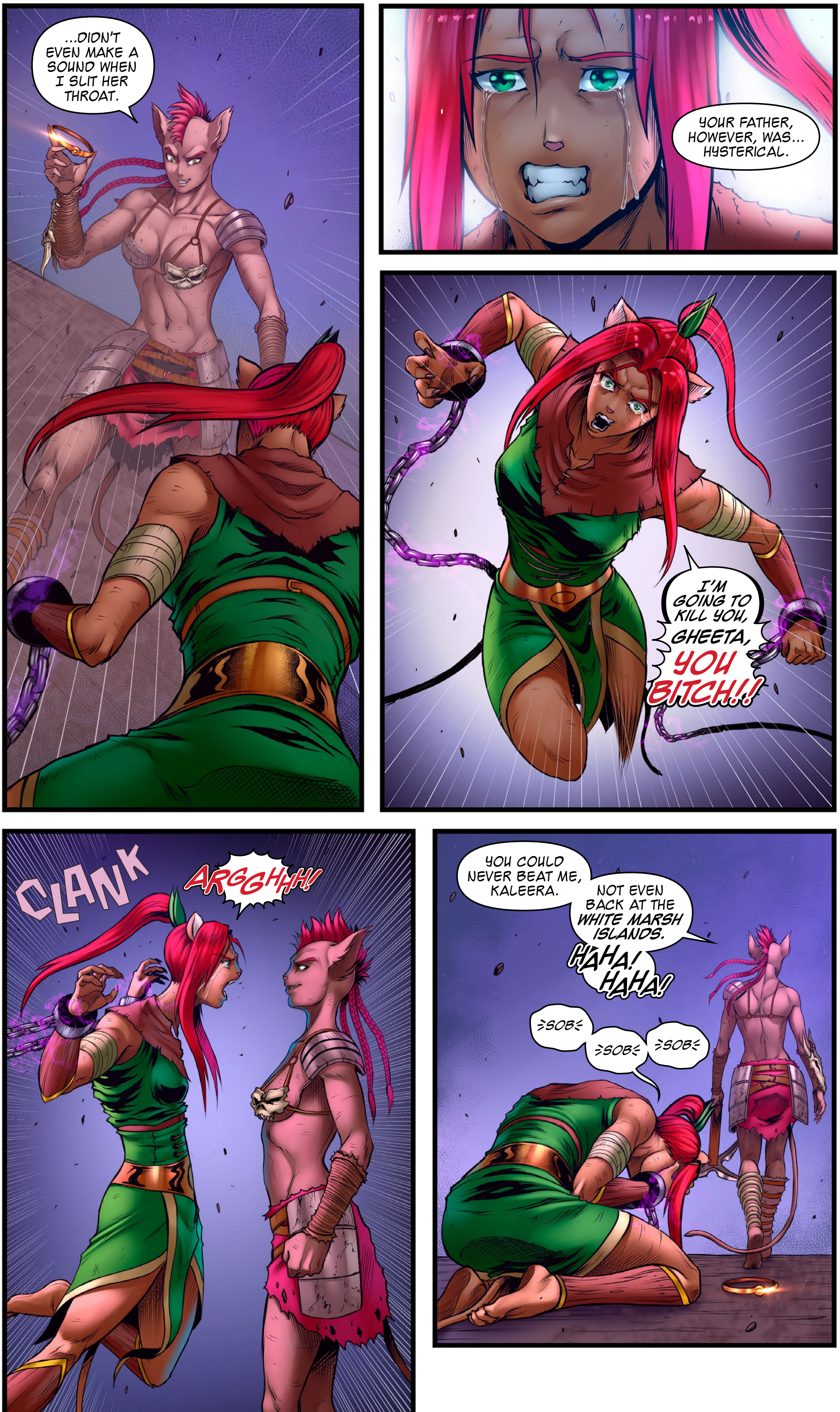

"...TEGEI WILL PROTECT HIM."
THE SPECTACLE IS IN SESSION.
WE CAN'T ALLOW YOU TO PASS.
RETURN TO YOUR HOMES.
BUT I AM HOME, SOLDIER.
BY THE LION GOD! VALADAR!
SOUND THE ALARM!
ARROGANT PUPPETS.
ARGH!
NO-- NO!
AGH!
ACK-- ACK!

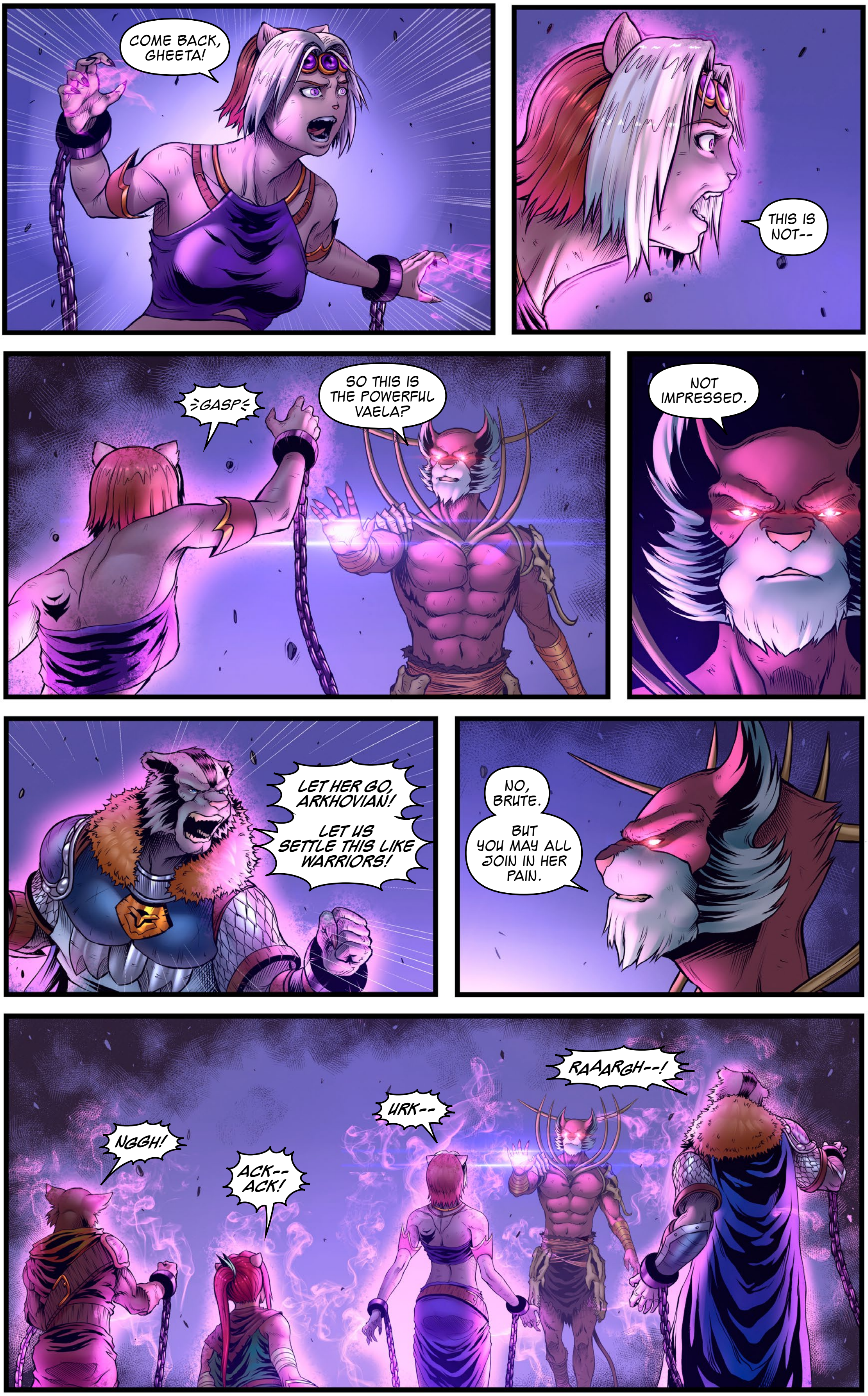

ARGH!
ATTACK!
ARGH!
DIE!!
URK--
SPLKK
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
OH PLEASE, DON'T EMBARRASS YOURSELVES.
AIEEE!
UGH!
BAAAM
ACK!
CRACK
LET'S GO.
I DON'T WANT TO KEEP AN *OLD FRIEND* WAITING.

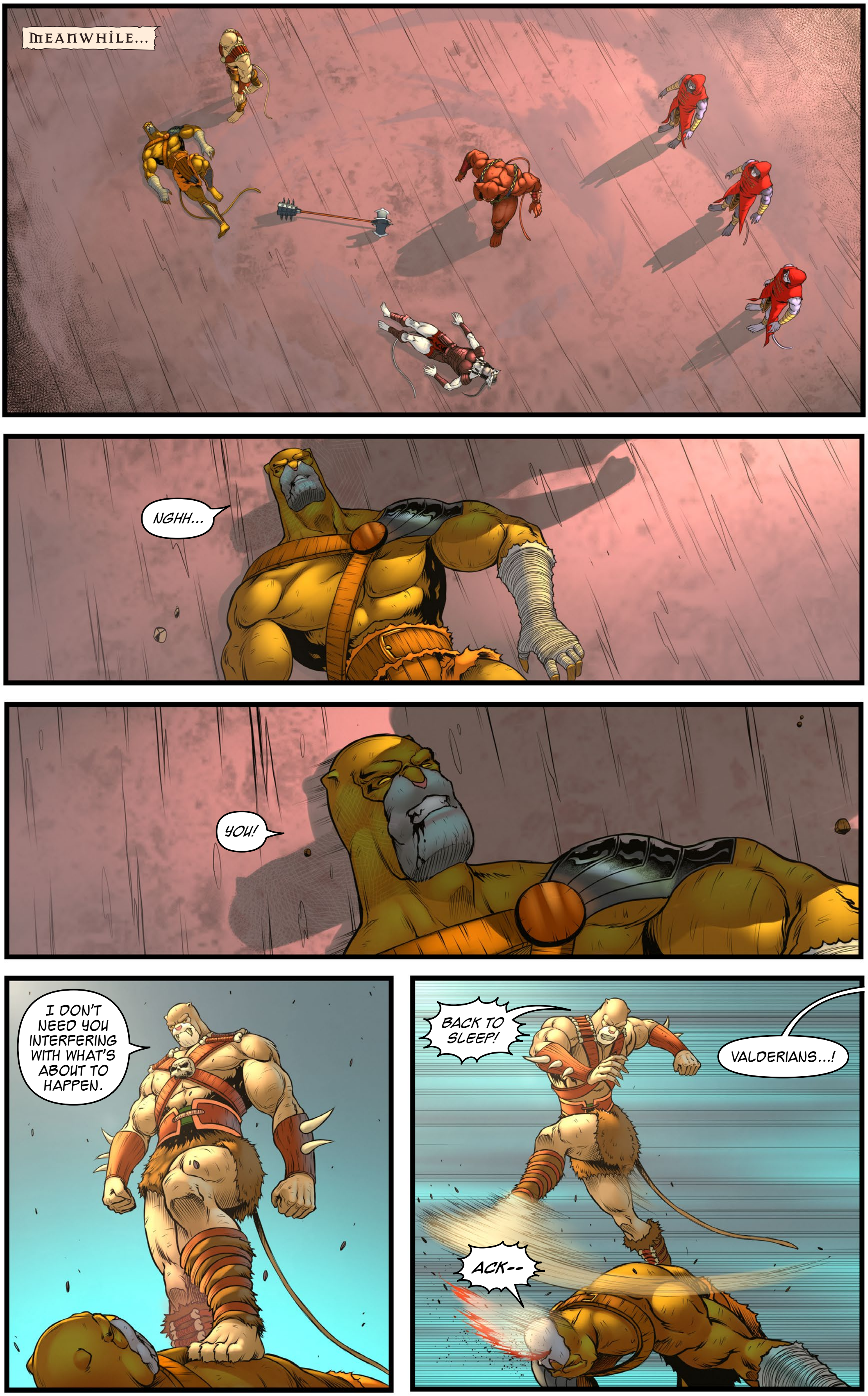

CRACK
HUFF HUFF
THAT'S AN AWFUL LOT OF SWEAT FOR SOMEONE WHO GREW UP IN THE DESERT.
LET'S FINISH THIS.
ARGGG!!
THOOOOOOOM
ARE YOU SERIOUS?!
MORE WINE, SIRE?
NOT NOW.
NOT NOW.
ARE YOU CERTAIN... OLD FRIEND?
!

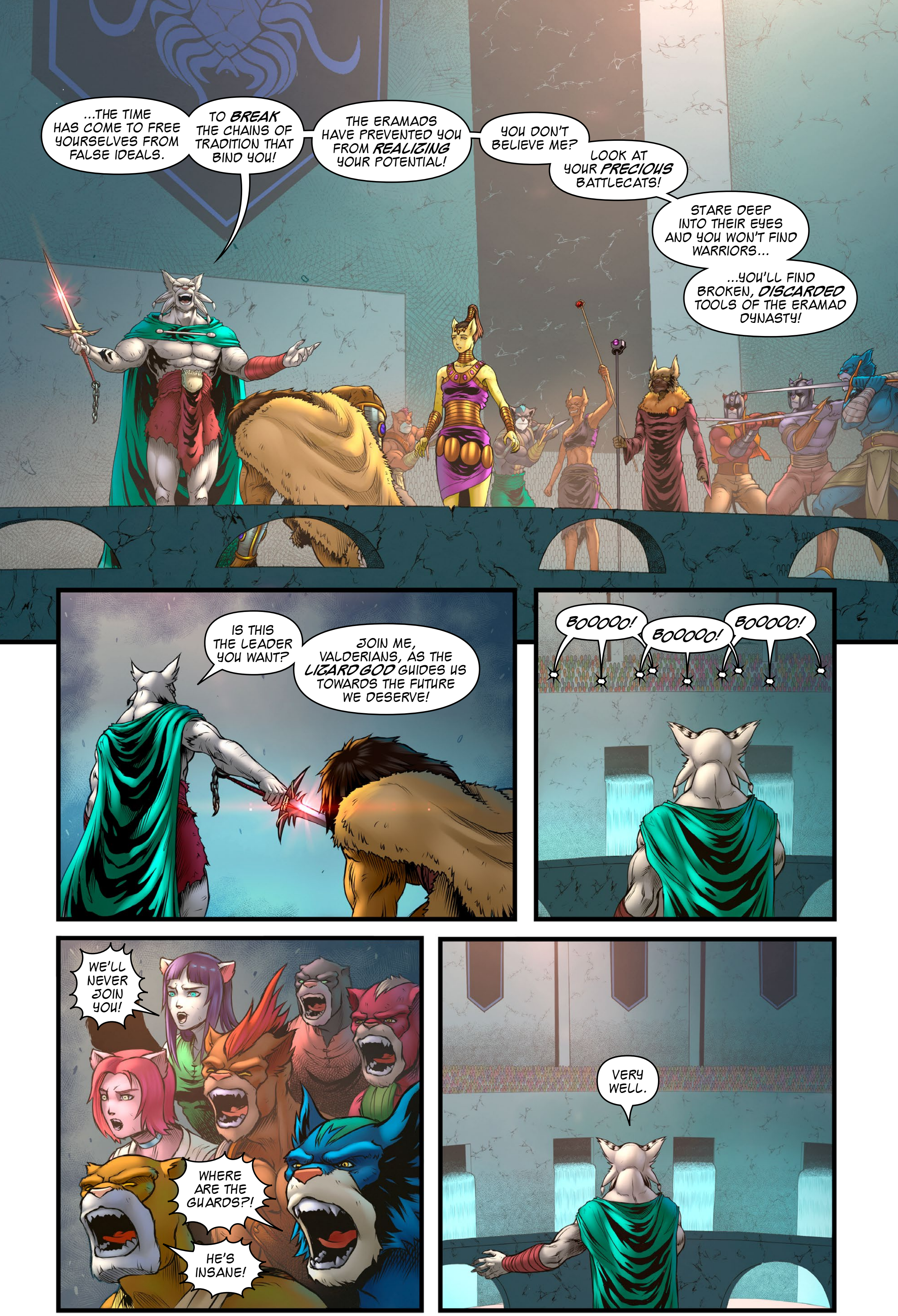

ARGHHH!
SHRUNK
FWOOSH
MY KING!
NOOO!
ADASTRIL! RUN!

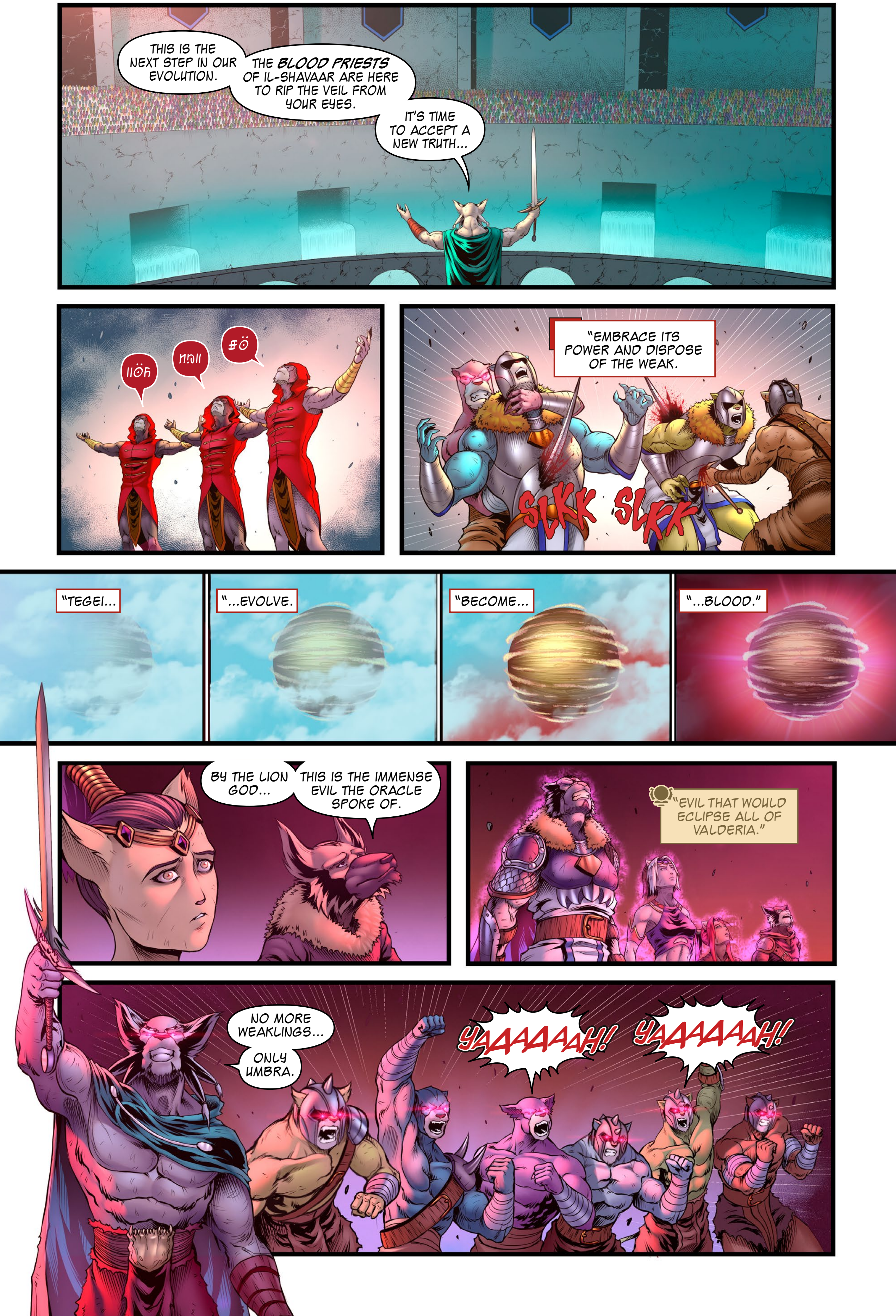

YOU TWO AREN'T GOING ANYWHERE.
HELLO, FATHER. STILL LECTURING THESE POOR MISGUIDED FELINESSSS, I SEE.
DELAYING THE INEVITABLE.
MYRTHALEN...YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING.
YOU ARE PLAYING WITH FIRE!
FIRE, YESSSS. SOON, AFTER YOU SCREAM IN PAIN AND I *RIP* THE TRUTH ABOUT THE MARK OF THE FANG FROM YOUR DECREPIT BODY, I WILL TURN ***EVERYTHING*** TO ASH.
YOUR TIME *HASSSS* COME!
WHAT ELSE HAVE YOU KEPT FROM ME, YOU OLD FOOL?!
ARGHH!
THERE'S NO USE.
THIS IS ARKHOVIAN STEEL.
I HAVE AN IDEA. JUST NEED TO--
SHE WAS PROUD TO THE VERY END...

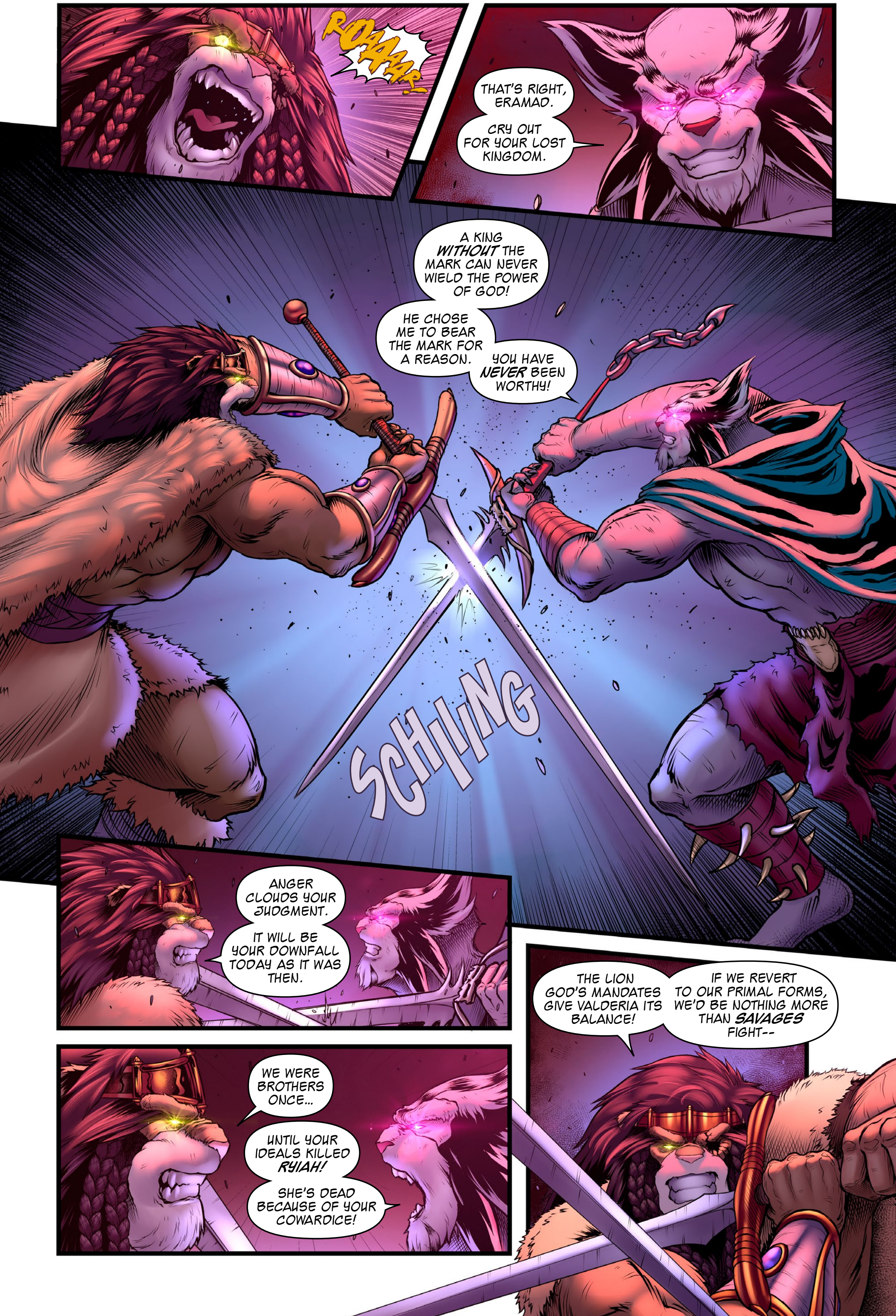

...DIDN'T EVEN MAKE A SOUND WHEN I SLIT HER THROAT.
YOUR FATHER, HOWEVER, WAS... HYSTERICAL.
I'M GOING TO KILL YOU, GHEETA, YOU BITCH!!
CLANK
ARGGHHH!
YOU COULD NEVER BEAT ME, KALEERA.
NOT EVEN BACK AT THE WHITE MARSH ISLANDS.
HAHA! HAHA!
≥SOB≤
≥SOB≤
≥SOB≤

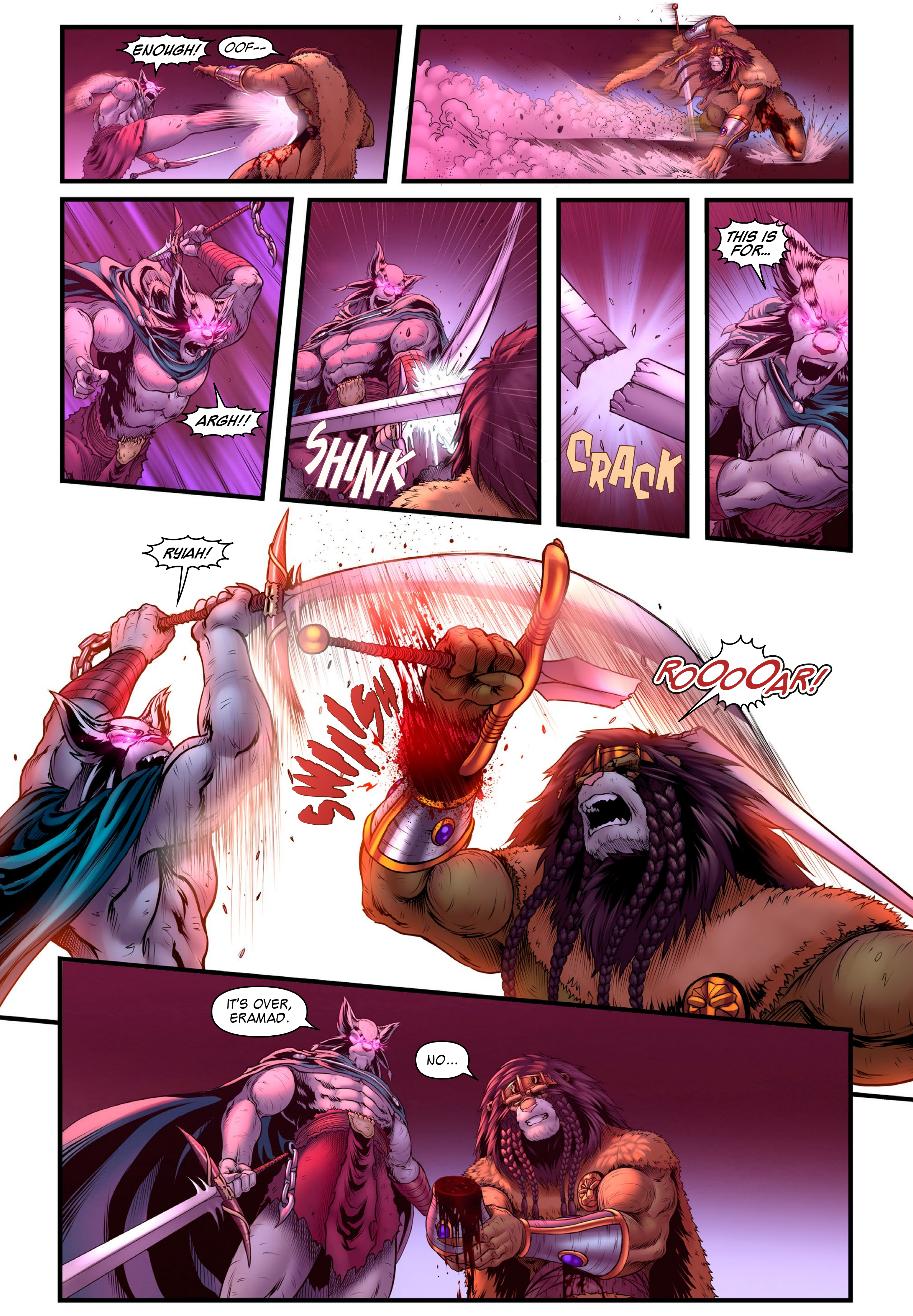

COME BACK, GHEETA!
THIS IS NOT--
≶GASP≶
SO THIS IS THE POWERFUL VAELA?
NOT IMPRESSED.
LET HER GO, ARKHOVIAN!
LET US SETTLE THIS LIKE WARRIORS!
NO, BRUTE.
BUT YOU MAY ALL JOIN IN HER PAIN.
RAAARGH--!
URK--
NGGH!
ACK-- ACK!

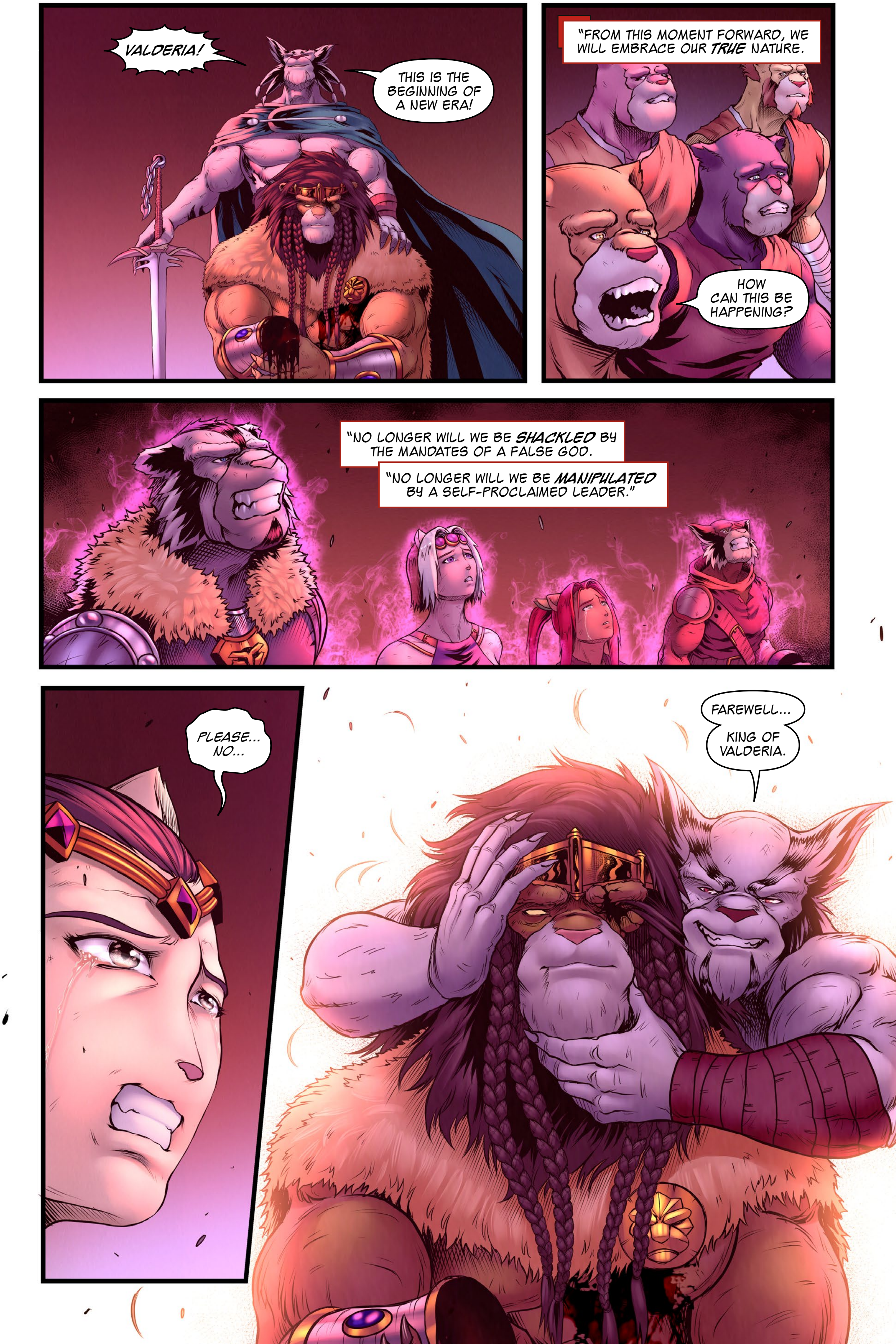

MEANWHILE...
NGHH...
YOU!
I DON'T NEED YOU INTERFERING WITH WHAT'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN.
BACK TO SLEEP!
VALDERIANS...!
ACK--

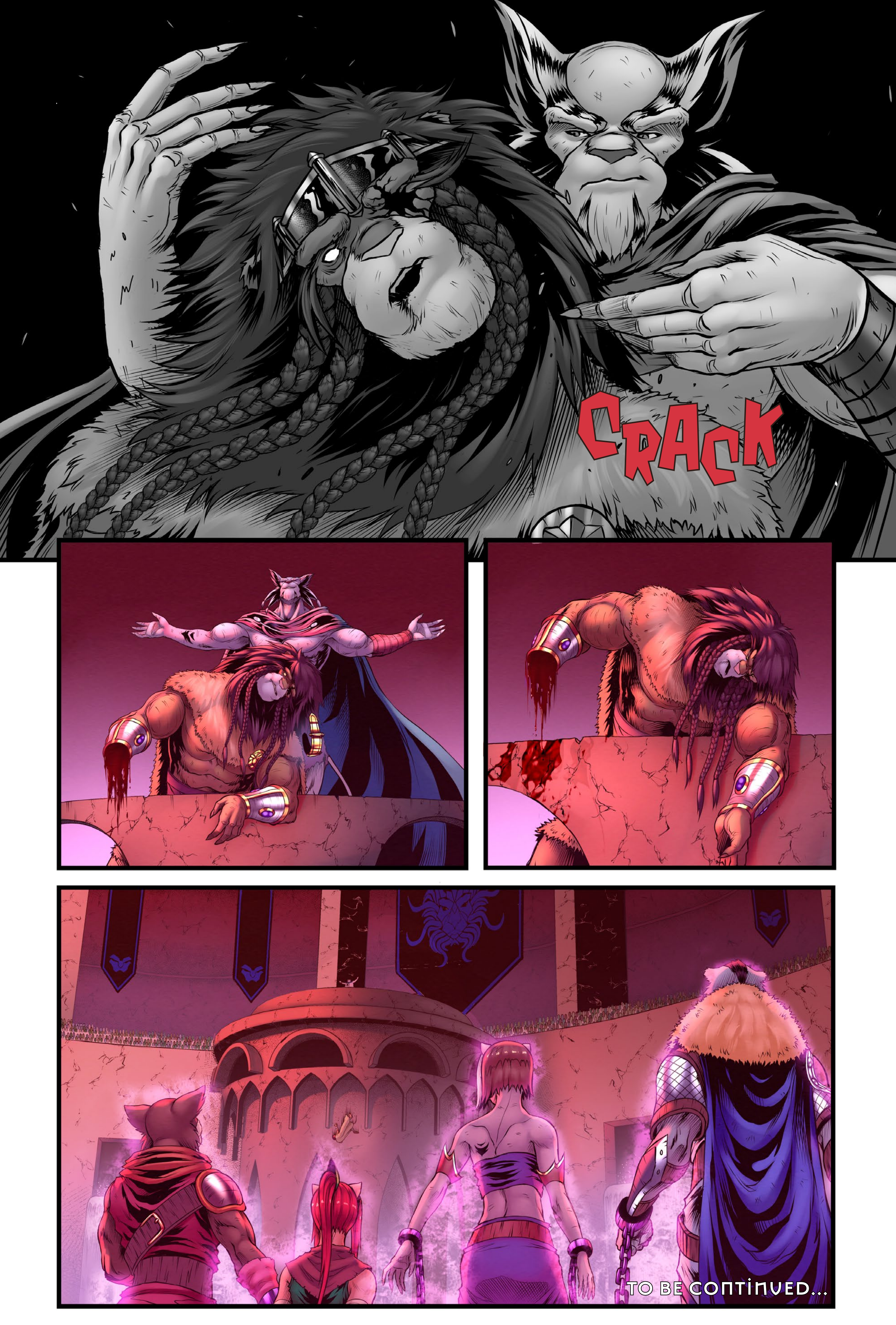

...THE TIME HAS COME TO FREE YOURSELVES FROM FALSE IDEALS.
TO **BREAK** THE CHAINS OF TRADITION THAT BIND YOU!
THE ERAMADS HAVE PREVENTED YOU FROM **REALIZING** YOUR POTENTIAL!
YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME?
LOOK AT YOUR **PRECIOUS** BATTLECATS!
STARE DEEP INTO THEIR EYES AND YOU WON'T FIND WARRIORS...
...YOU'LL FIND BROKEN, **DISCARDED** TOOLS OF THE ERAMAD DYNASTY!
IS THIS THE LEADER YOU WANT?
JOIN ME, VALDERIANS, AS THE **LIZARD GOD** GUIDES US TOWARDS THE FUTURE WE DESERVE!
BOOOOO!
BOOOOO!
BOOOOO!
WE'LL NEVER JOIN YOU!
WHERE ARE THE GUARDS?!
HE'S INSANE!
VERY WELL.


THIS IS THE NEXT STEP IN OUR EVOLUTION.
THE *BLOOD PRIESTS* OF IL-SHAVAAR ARE HERE TO RIP THE VEIL FROM YOUR EYES.
IT'S TIME TO ACCEPT A NEW TRUTH...
"EMBRACE ITS POWER AND DISPOSE OF THE WEAK.
SLKK SLKK
"TEGEI...
"...EVOLVE.
"BECOME...
"...BLOOD."
BY THE LION GOD...
THIS IS THE IMMENSE EVIL THE ORACLE SPOKE OF.
"EVIL THAT WOULD ECLIPSE ALL OF VALDERIA."
NO MORE WEAKLINGS...
ONLY UMBRA.
YAAAAAAH!
YAAAAAAH!


ROAAAAR!
THAT'S RIGHT, ERAMAD.
CRY OUT FOR YOUR LOST KINGDOM.
A KING ***WITHOUT*** THE MARK CAN NEVER WIELD THE POWER OF GOD!
HE CHOSE ME TO BEAR THE MARK FOR A REASON.
YOU HAVE ***NEVER*** BEEN WORTHY!
SCHIIING
ANGER CLOUDS YOUR JUDGMENT.
IT WILL BE YOUR DOWNFALL TODAY AS IT WAS THEN.
WE WERE BROTHERS ONCE...
UNTIL YOUR IDEALS KILLED ***RYIAH!***
SHE'S DEAD BECAUSE OF YOUR COWARDICE!
THE LION GOD'S MANDATES GIVE VALDERIA ITS BALANCE!
IF WE REVERT TO OUR PRIMAL FORMS, WE'D BE NOTHING MORE THAN ***SAVAGES*** FIGHT--


ENOUGH!
OOF--
ARGH!!
SHINK
CRACK
THIS IS FOR...
RYIAH!
SWIISH
ROOOOOAR!
IT'S OVER, ERAMAD.
NO...


VALDERIA!
THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF A NEW ERA!
"FROM THIS MOMENT FORWARD, WE WILL EMBRACE OUR *TRUE* NATURE.
HOW CAN THIS BE HAPPENING?
"NO LONGER WILL WE BE *SHACKLED* BY THE MANDATES OF A FALSE GOD.
"NO LONGER WILL WE BE *MANIPULATED* BY A SELF-PROCLAIMED LEADER."
PLEASE... NO...
FAREWELL...
KING OF VALDERIA.

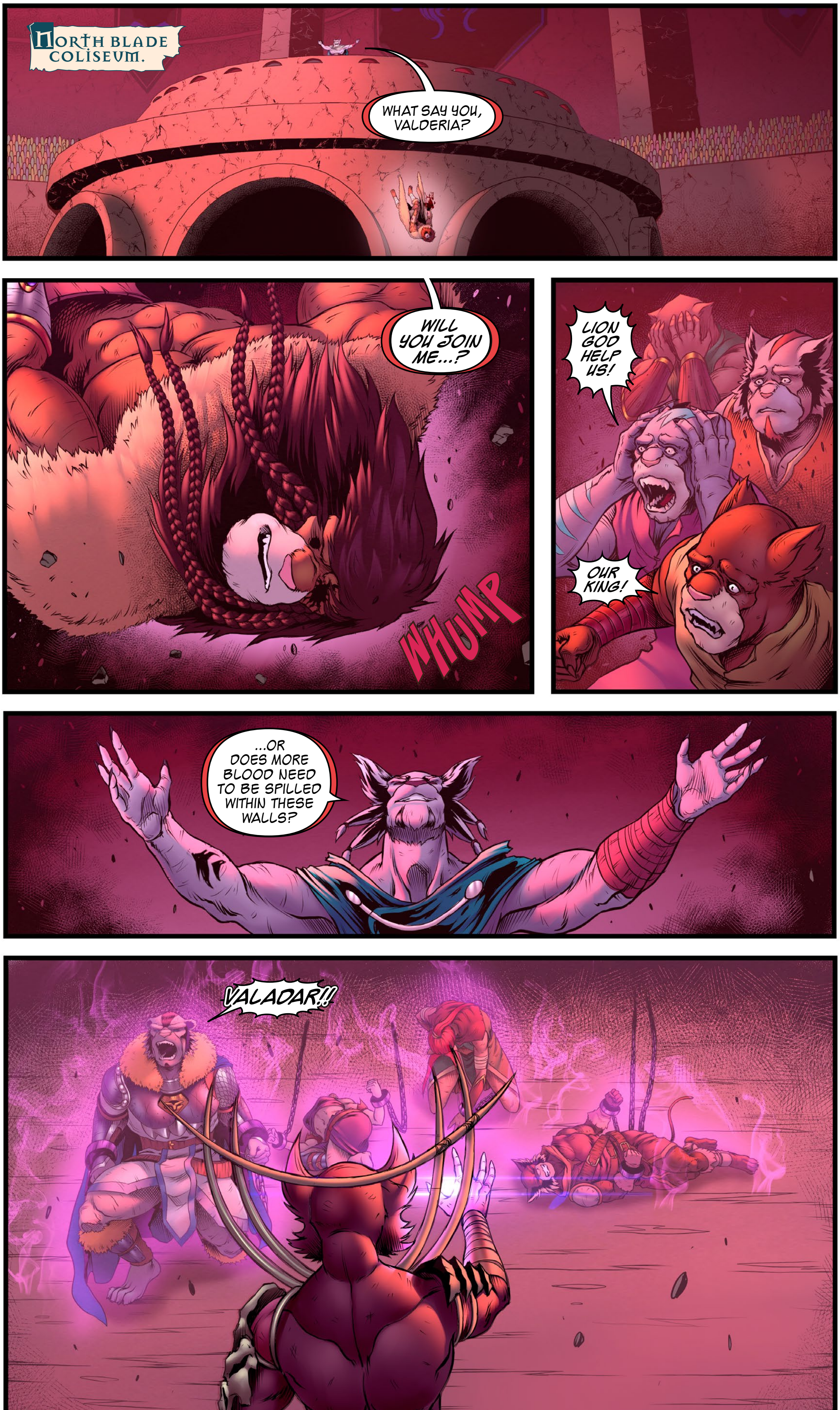

CRACK
TO BE CONTINUED...

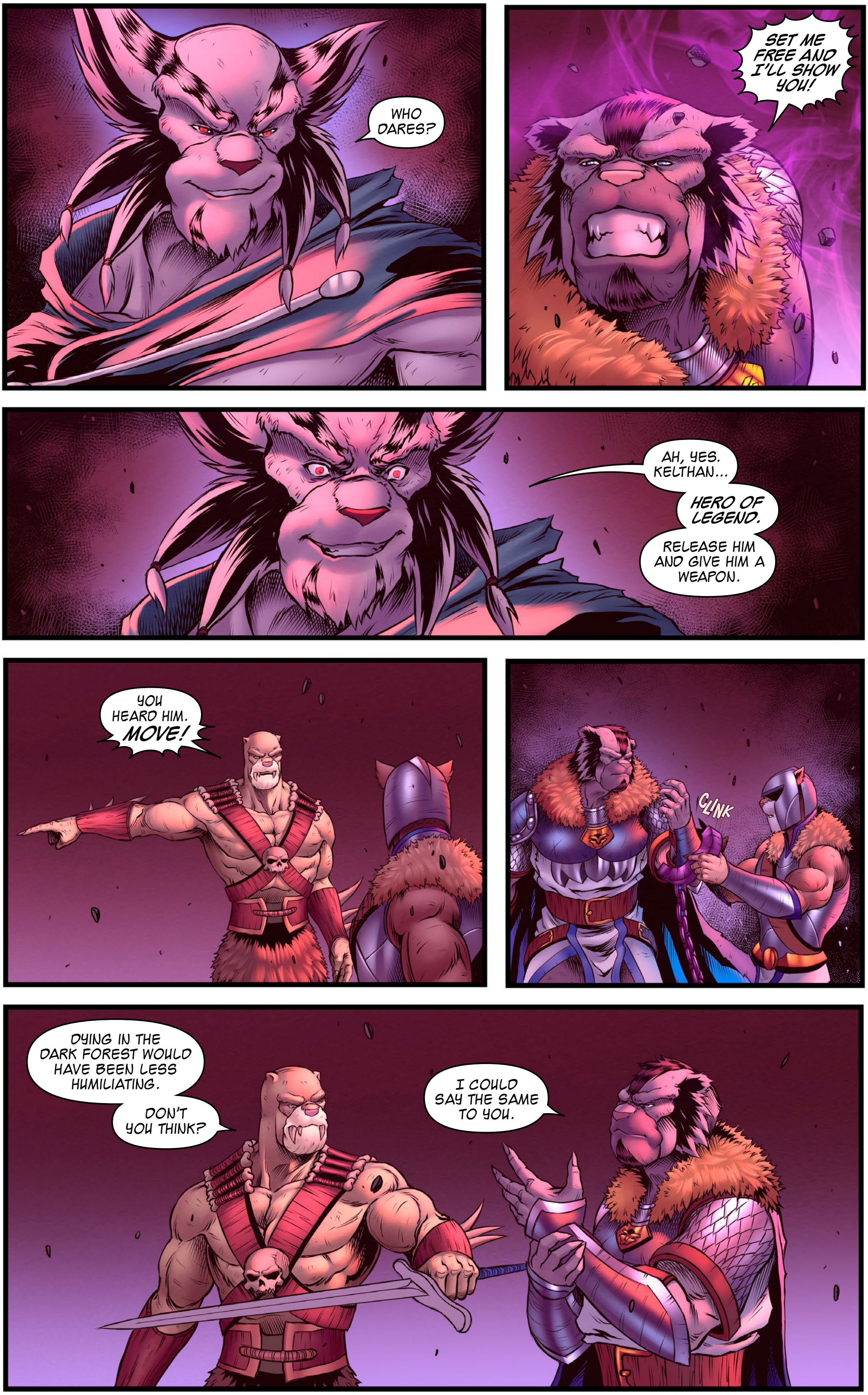
RORINCLAW

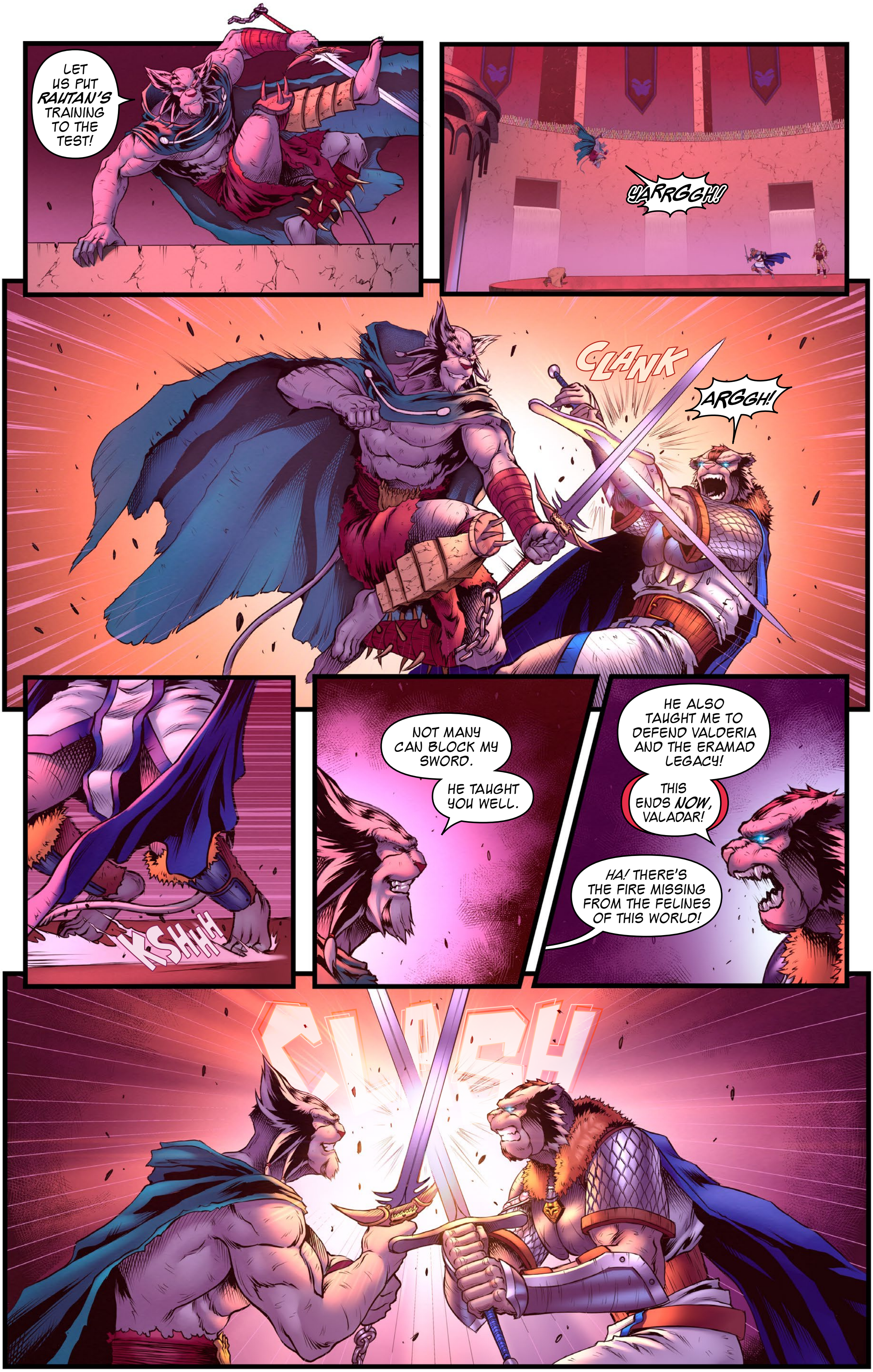
6

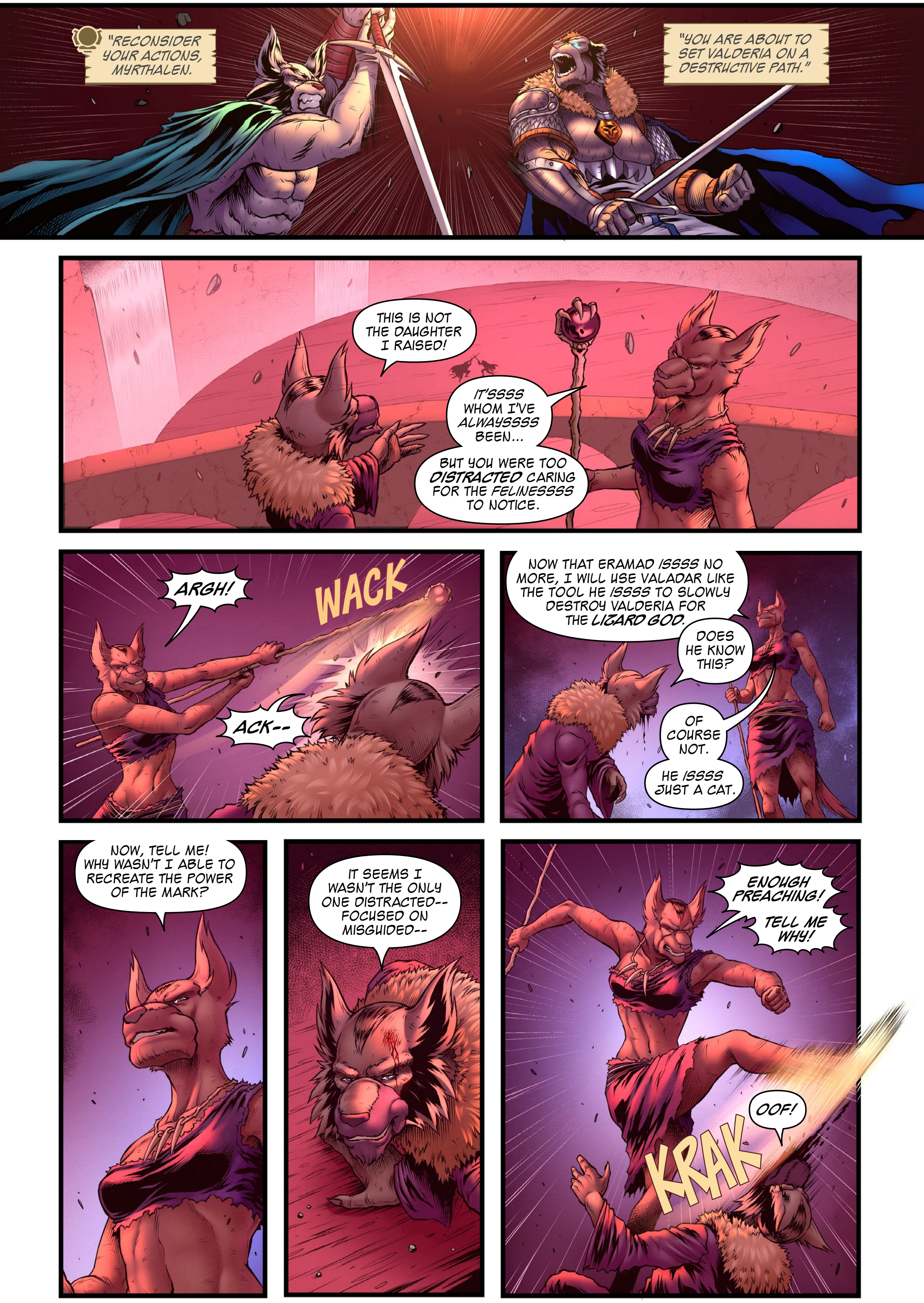
Chapter Six

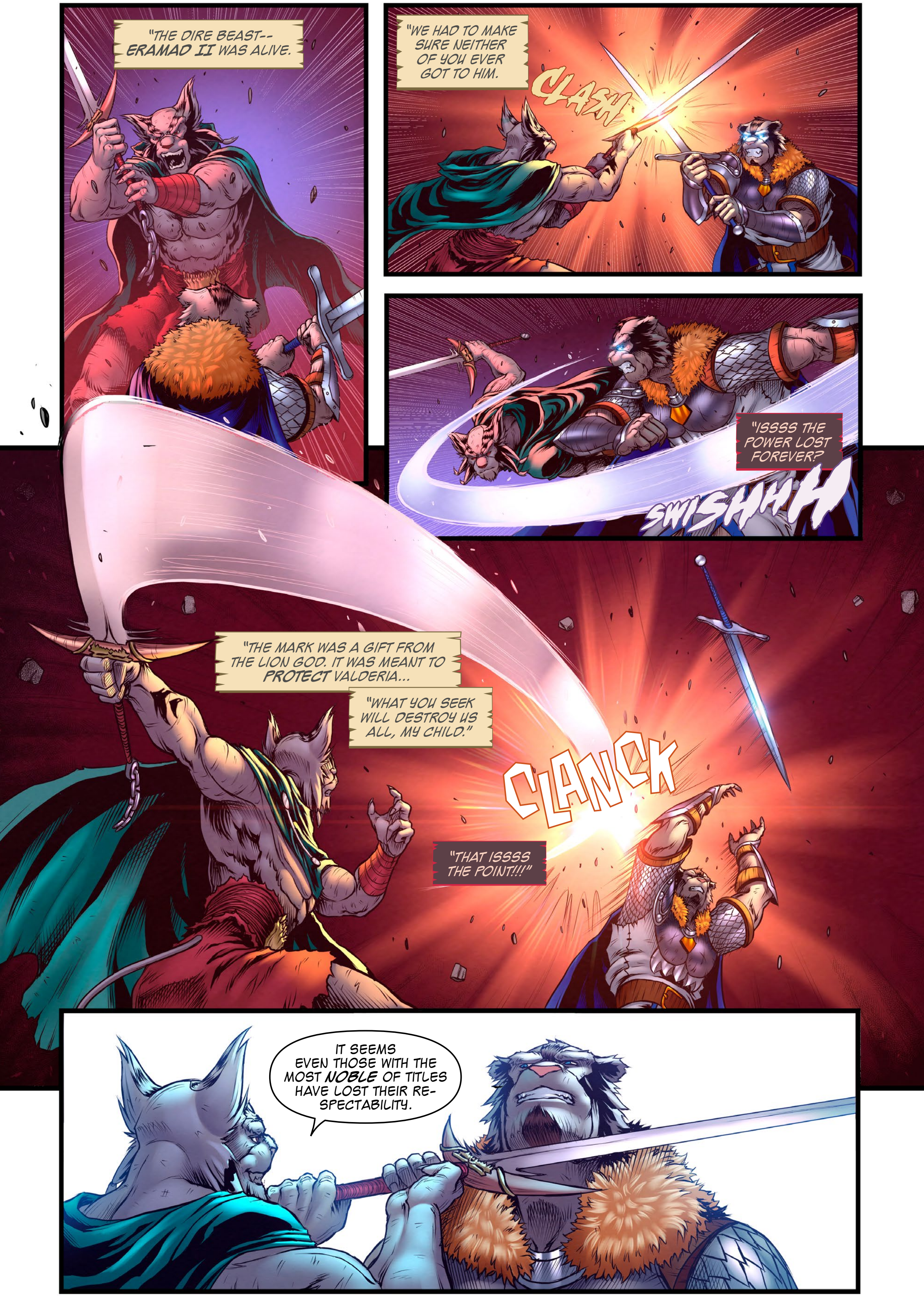
MiKE

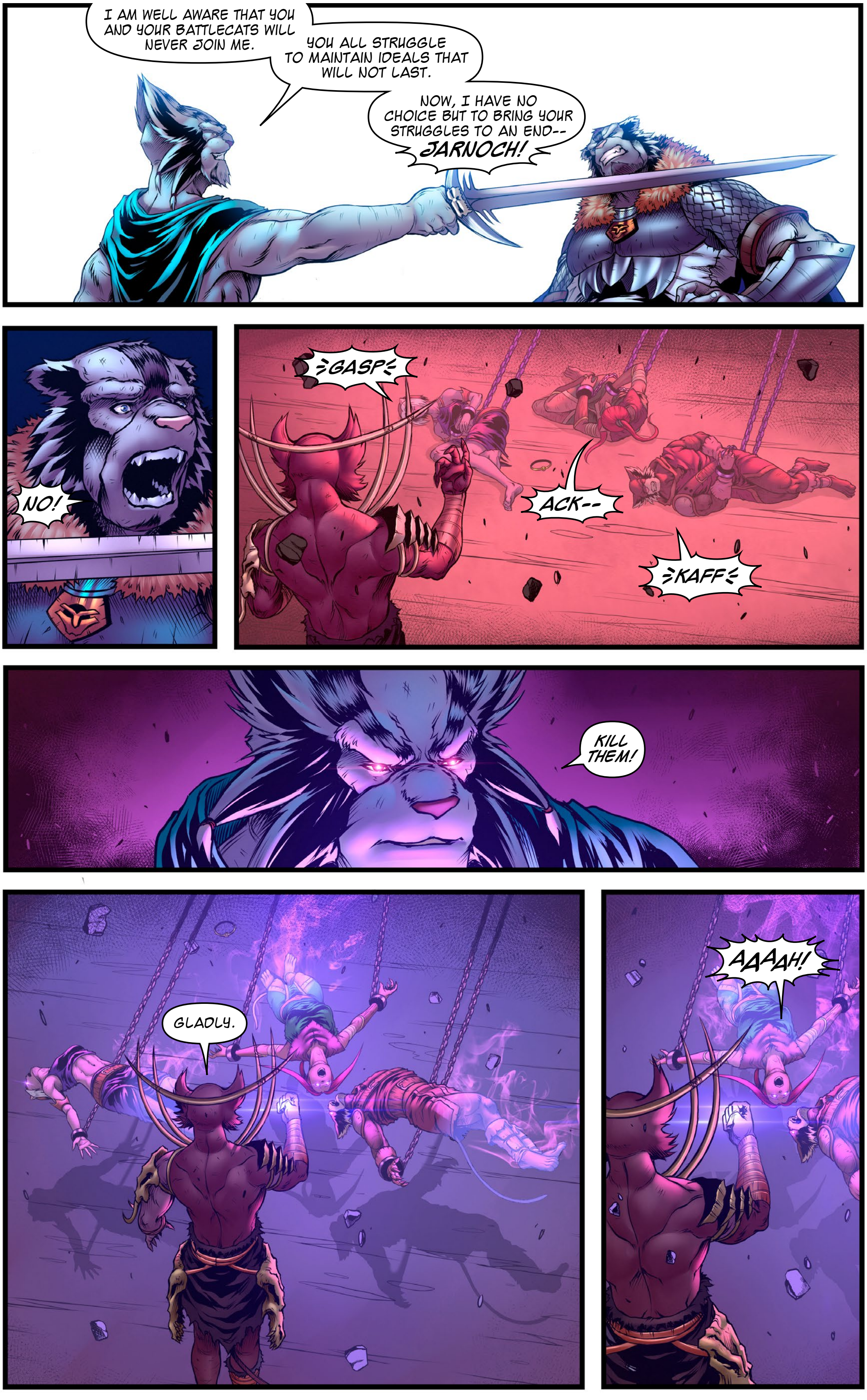

NORTH BLADE COLISEUM.
WHAT SAY YOU, VALDERIA?
WILL YOU JOIN ME...?
WHUMP
LION GOD HELP US!
OUR KING!
...OR DOES MORE BLOOD NEED TO BE SPILLED WITHIN THESE WALLS?
VALADAR!!

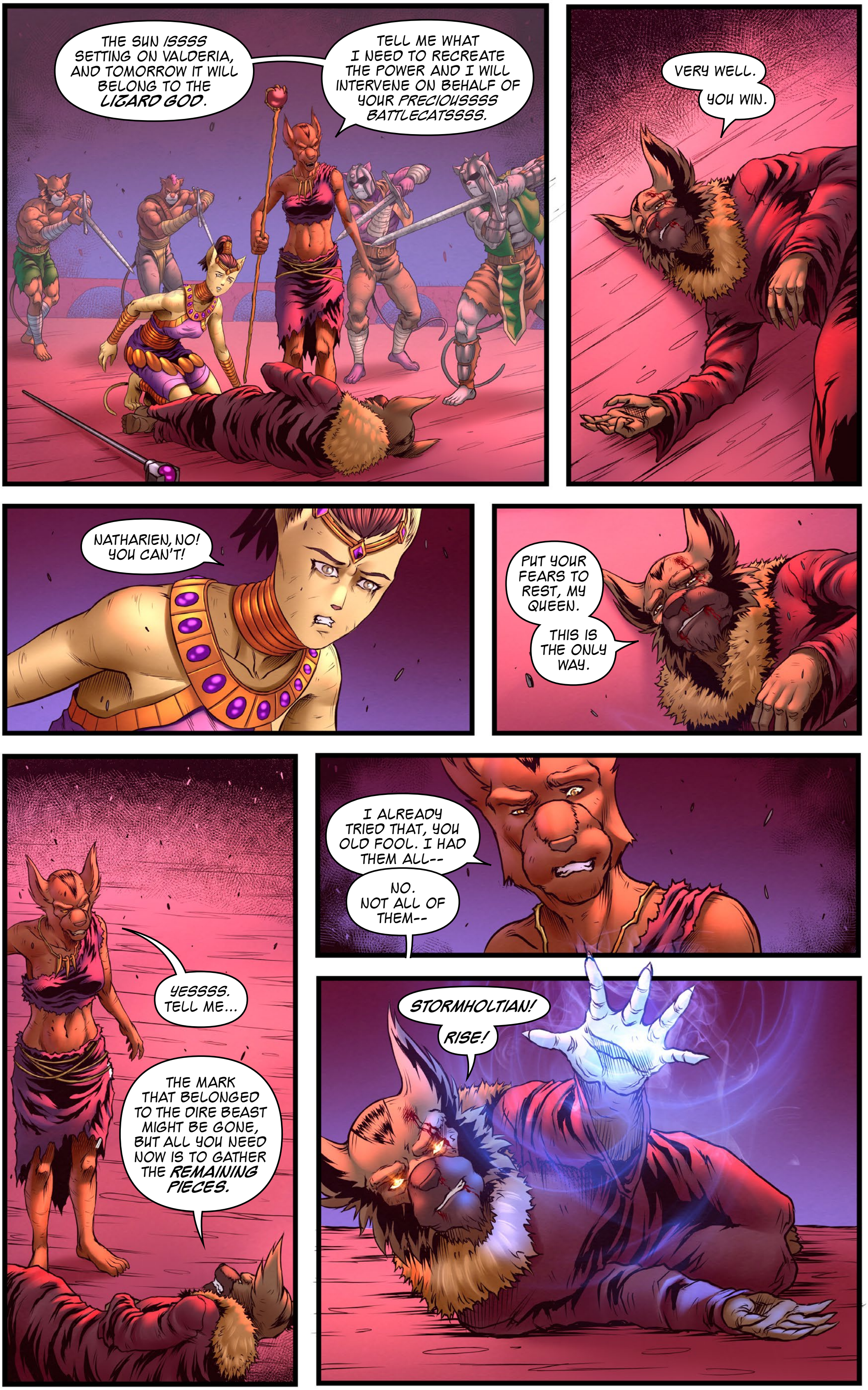

WHO DARES?
SET ME FREE AND I'LL SHOW YOU!
AH, YES. KELTHAN...
HERO OF LEGEND.
RELEASE HIM AND GIVE HIM A WEAPON.
YOU HEARD HIM. ***MOVE!***
CLINK
DYING IN THE DARK FOREST WOULD HAVE BEEN LESS HUMILIATING.
DON'T YOU THINK?
I COULD SAY THE SAME TO YOU.

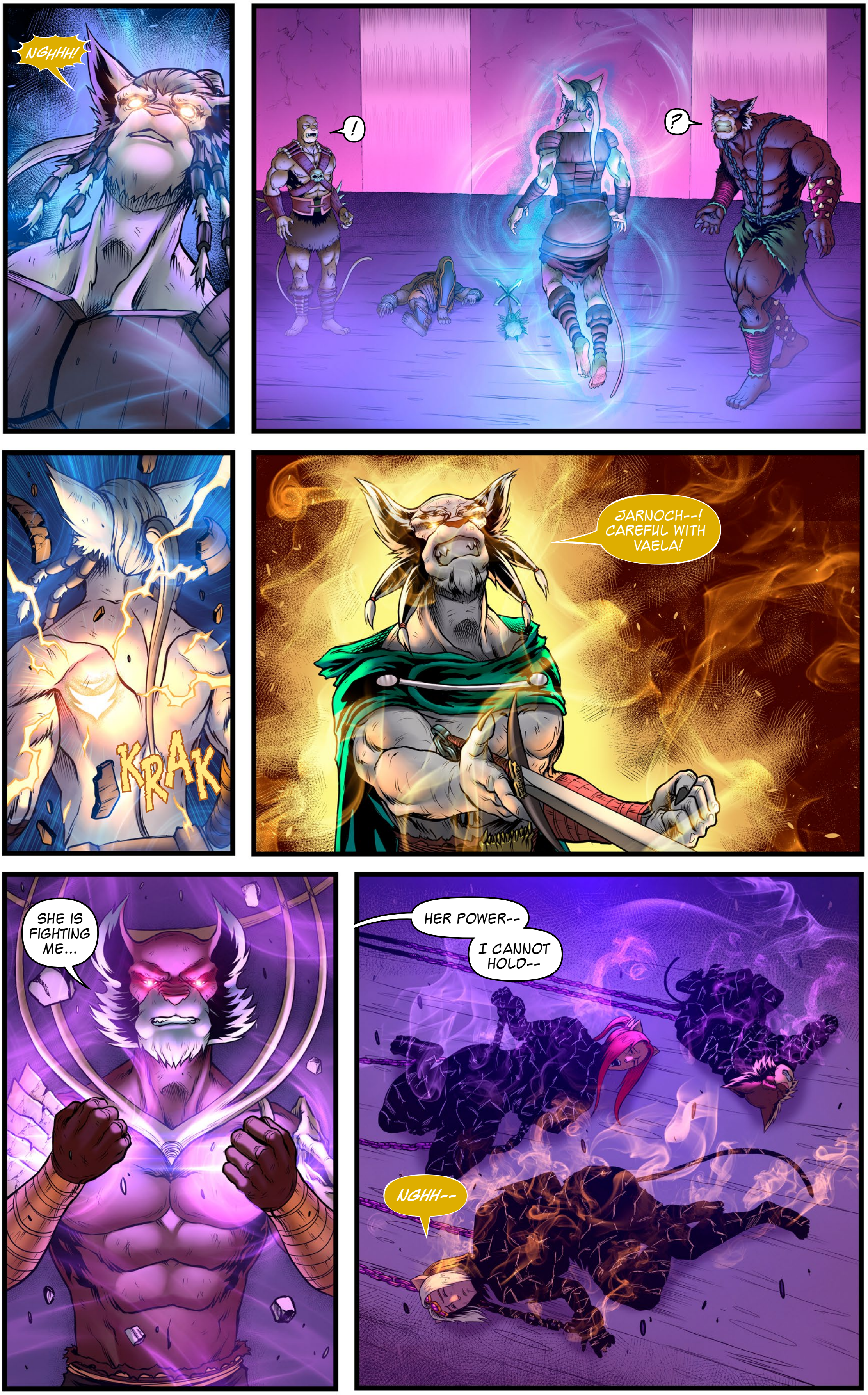

LET US PUT *RAUTAN'S* TRAINING TO THE TEST!
YARRGGH!
CLANK
ARGGH!
KSHHH
NOT MANY CAN BLOCK MY SWORD.
HE TAUGHT YOU WELL.
HE ALSO TAUGHT ME TO DEFEND VALDERIA AND THE ERAMAD LEGACY!
THIS ENDS *NOW*, VALADAR!
HA! THERE'S THE FIRE MISSING FROM THE FELINES OF THIS WORLD!
CLASH

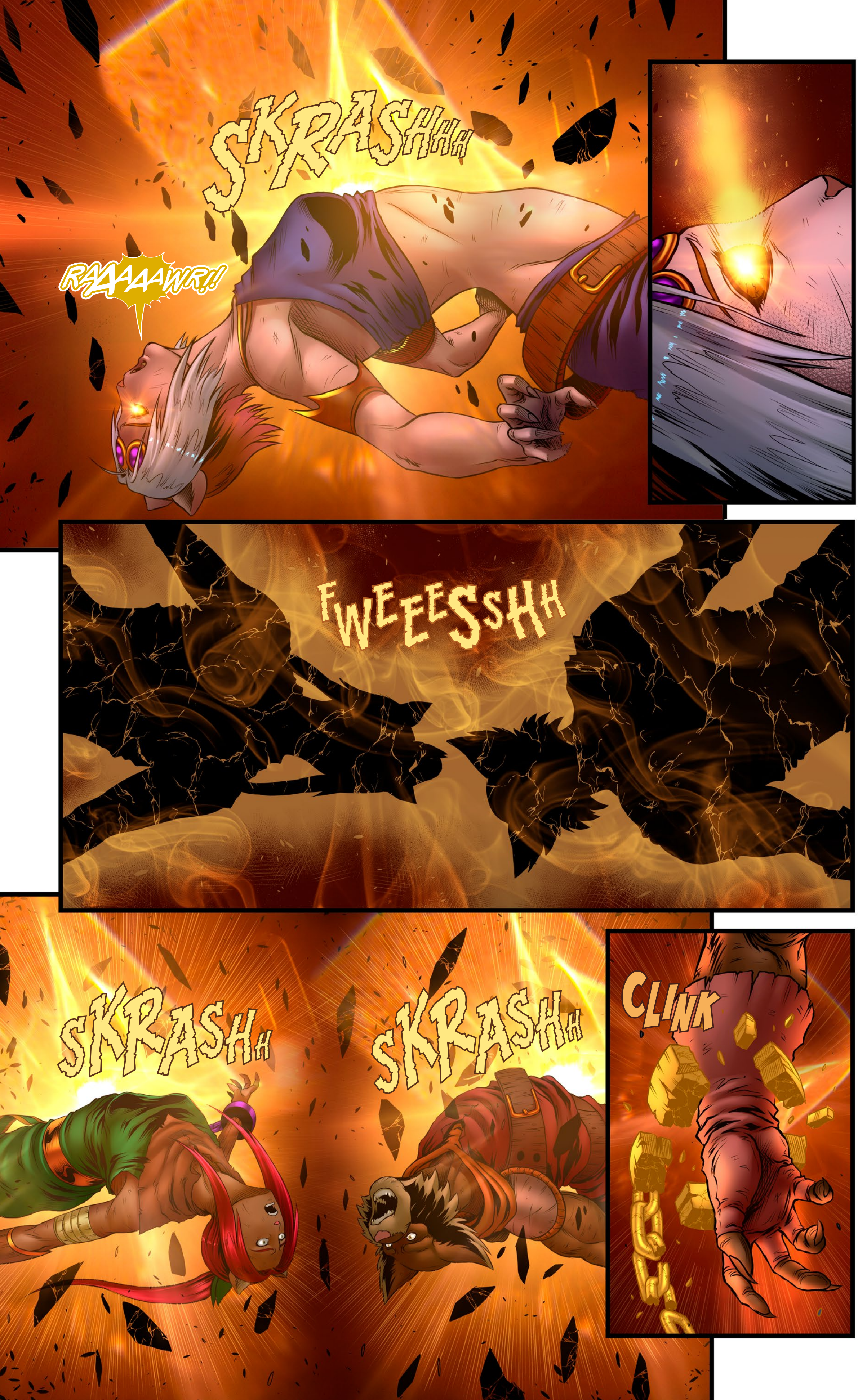

"RECONSIDER YOUR ACTIONS, MYRTHALEN.
"YOU ARE ABOUT TO SET VALDERIA ON A DESTRUCTIVE PATH."
THIS IS NOT THE DAUGHTER I RAISED!
IT'SSSS WHOM I'VE ALWAYSSSS BEEN...
BUT YOU WERE TOO *DISTRACTED* CARING FOR THE *FELINESSSS* TO NOTICE.
ARGH!
WACK
ACK--
NOW THAT ERAMAD *ISSSS* NO MORE, I WILL USE VALADAR LIKE THE TOOL HE *ISSSS* TO SLOWLY DESTROY VALDERIA FOR THE *LIZARD GOD*.
DOES HE KNOW THIS?
OF COURSE NOT.
HE *ISSSS* JUST A CAT.
NOW, TELL ME! WHY WASN'T I ABLE TO RECREATE THE POWER OF THE MARK?
IT SEEMS I WASN'T THE ONLY ONE DISTRACTED-- FOCUSED ON MISGUIDED--
ENOUGH PREACHING!
TELL ME WHY!
OOF!
KRAK

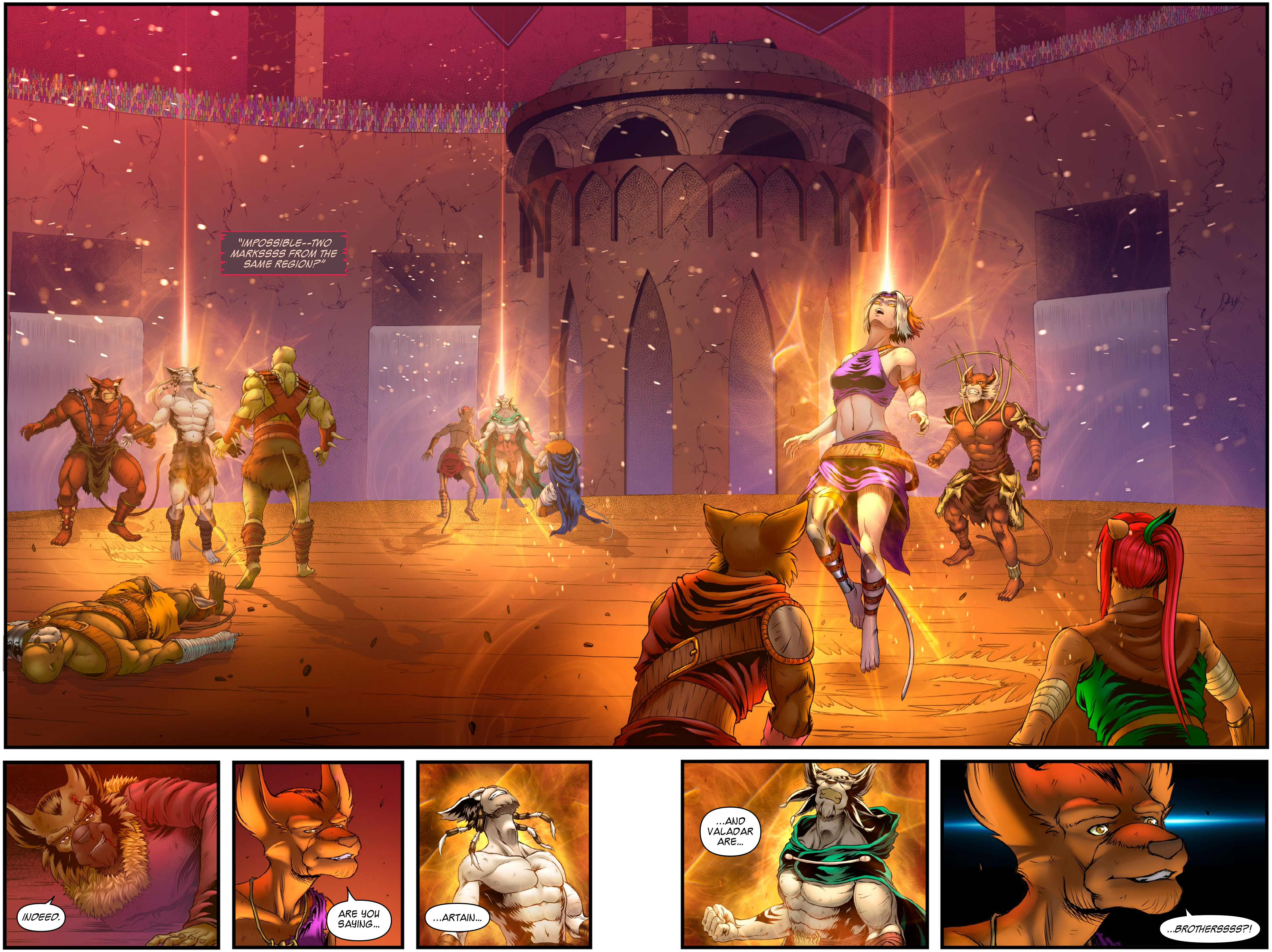

"THE DIRE BEAST-- ERAMAD II WAS ALIVE.
"WE HAD TO MAKE SURE NEITHER OF YOU EVER GOT TO HIM.
CLASH
"ISSSS THE POWER LOST FOREVER?
SWISHHH
"THE MARK WAS A GIFT FROM THE LION GOD. IT WAS MEANT TO PROTECT VALDERIA...
"WHAT YOU SEEK WILL DESTROY US ALL, MY CHILD."
CLANCK
"THAT ISSSS THE POINT!!!"
IT SEEMS EVEN THOSE WITH THE MOST NOBLE OF TITLES HAVE LOST THEIR RESPECTABILITY.

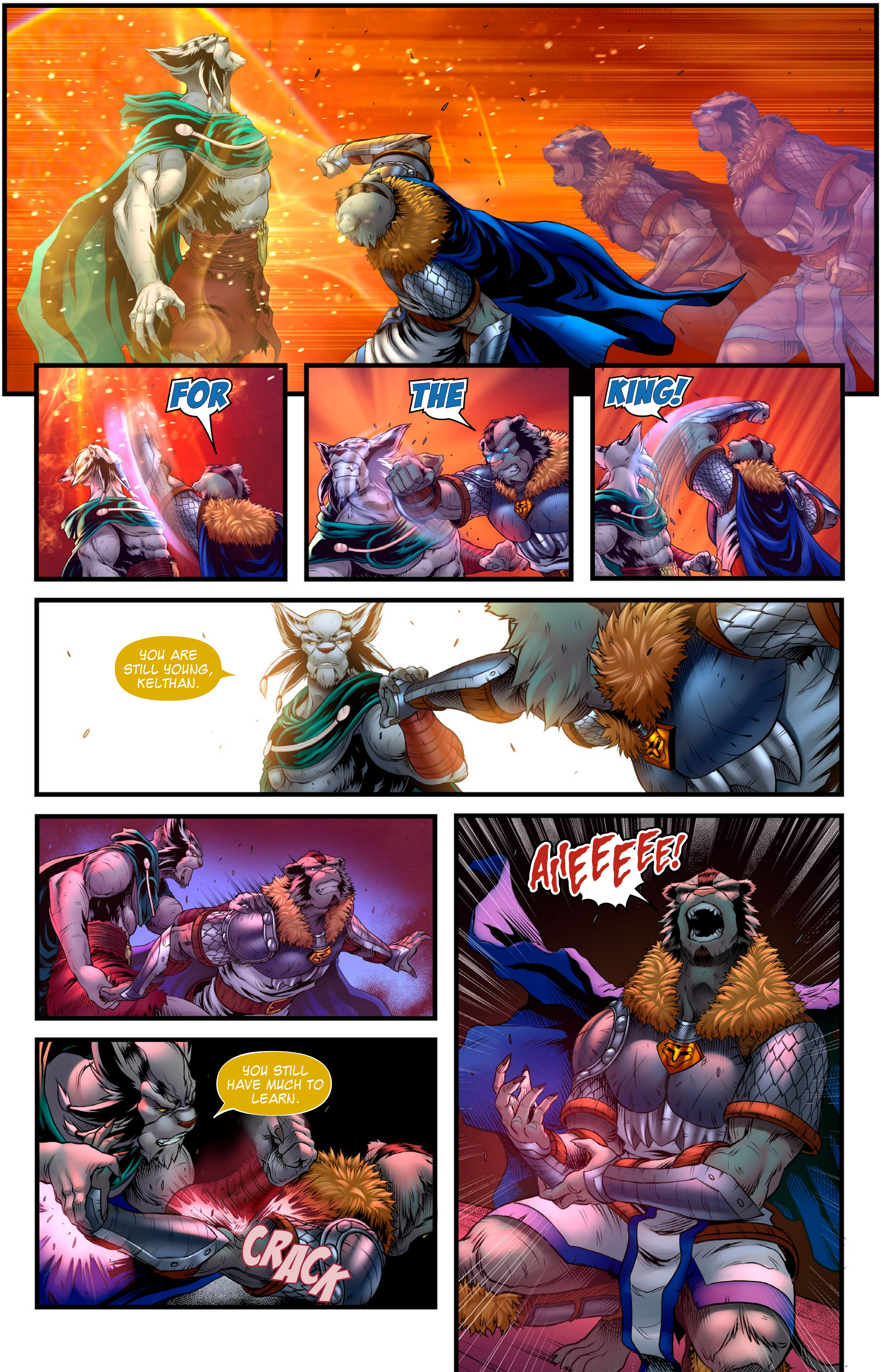

I AM WELL AWARE THAT YOU AND YOUR BATTLECATS WILL NEVER JOIN ME.
YOU ALL STRUGGLE TO MAINTAIN IDEALS THAT WILL NOT LAST.
NOW, I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO BRING YOUR STRUGGLES TO AN END-- JARNOCH!
NO!
GASP
ACK--
KAFF
KILL THEM!
GLADLY.
AAAAH!

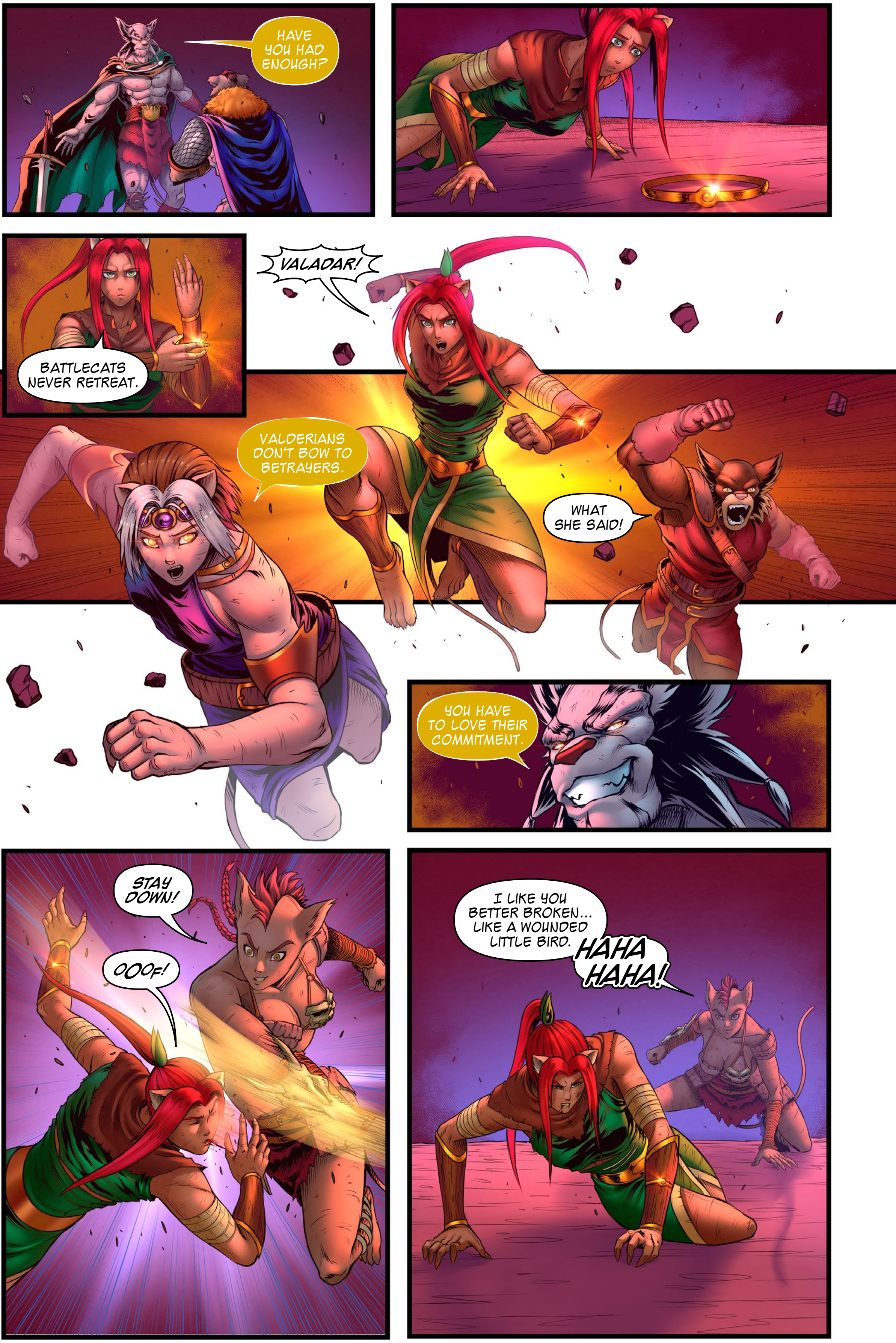

THE SUN *ISSSS* SETTING ON VALDERIA, AND TOMORROW IT WILL BELONG TO THE ***LIZARD GOD***.
TELL ME WHAT I NEED TO RECREATE THE POWER AND I WILL INTERVENE ON BEHALF OF YOUR *PRECIOUSSSS* BATTLECATSSSS.
VERY WELL.
YOU WIN.
NATHARIEN, NO! YOU CAN'T!
PUT YOUR FEARS TO REST, MY QUEEN.
THIS IS THE ONLY WAY.
YESSSS. TELL ME...
THE MARK THAT BELONGED TO THE DIRE BEAST MIGHT BE GONE, BUT ALL YOU NEED NOW IS TO GATHER THE ***REMAINING PIECES.***
I ALREADY TRIED THAT, YOU OLD FOOL. I HAD THEM ALL--
NO. NOT ALL OF THEM--
STORMHOLTIAN!
RISE!

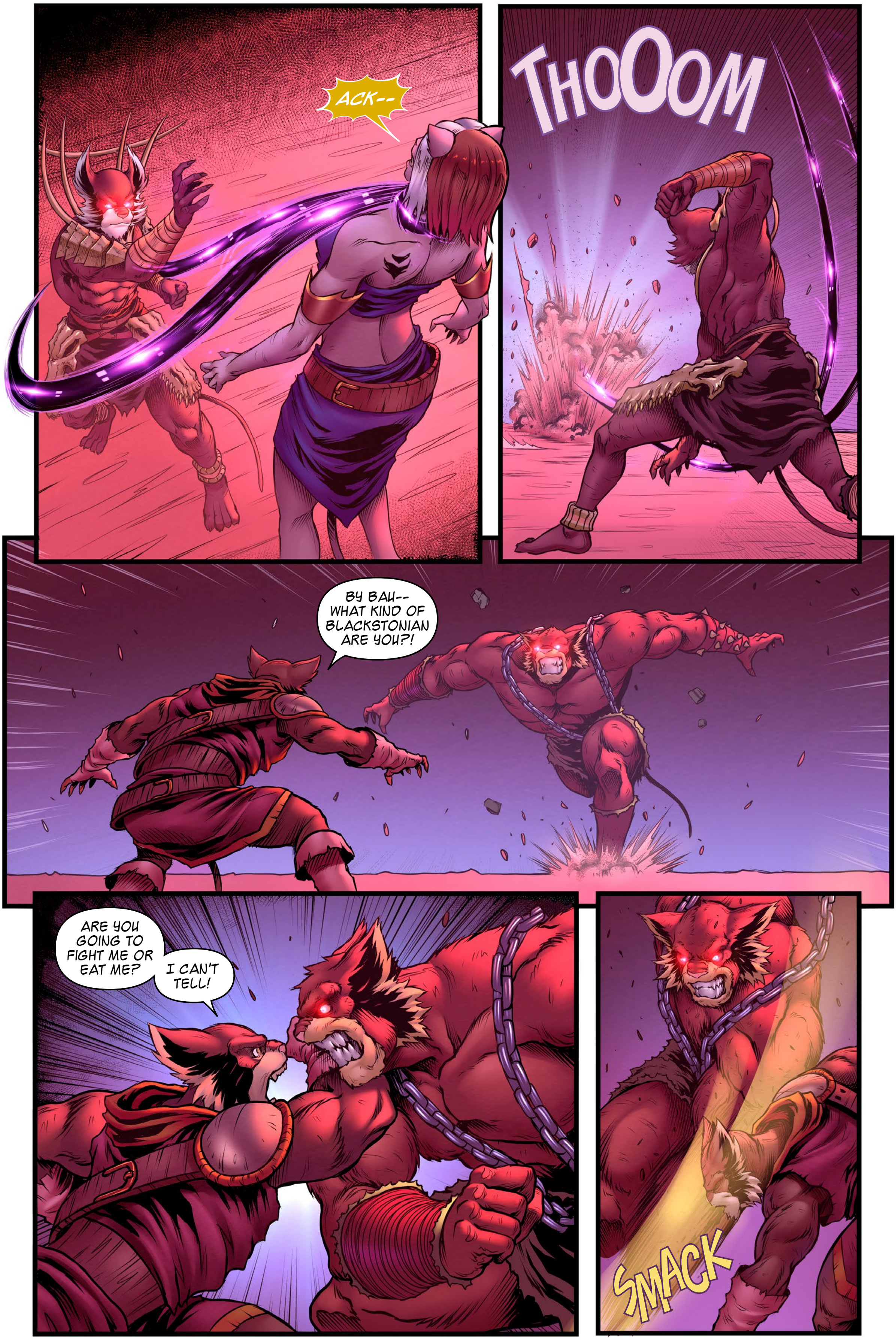

NGHHH!
!
?
KRAK
JARNOCH--! CAREFUL WITH VAELA!
SHE IS FIGHTING ME...
HER POWER--
I CANNOT HOLD--
NGHH--

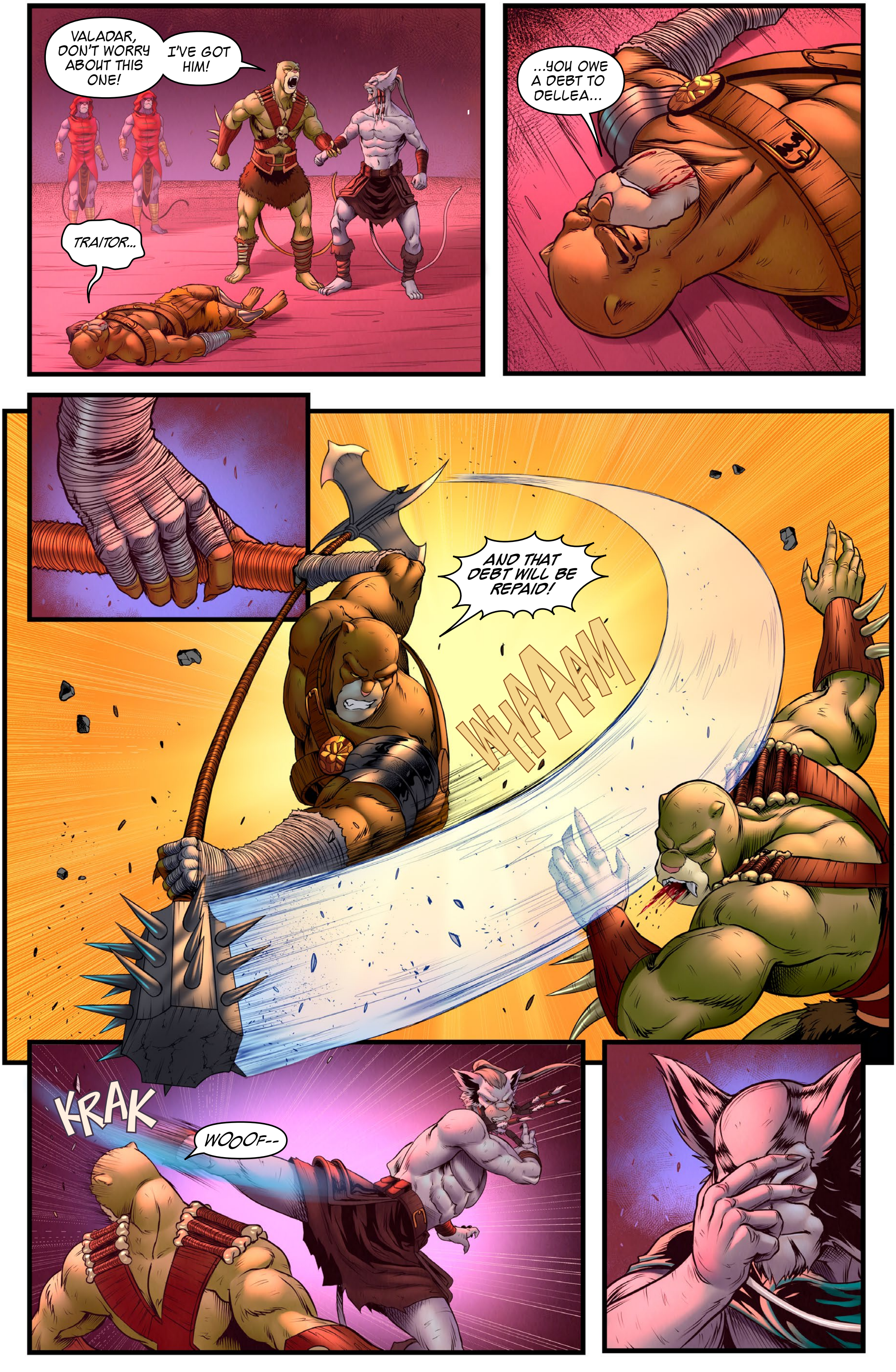

SKRASHHH
RAAAAAWR!!
FWEEESSHH
SKRASHH
SKRASHH
CLINK

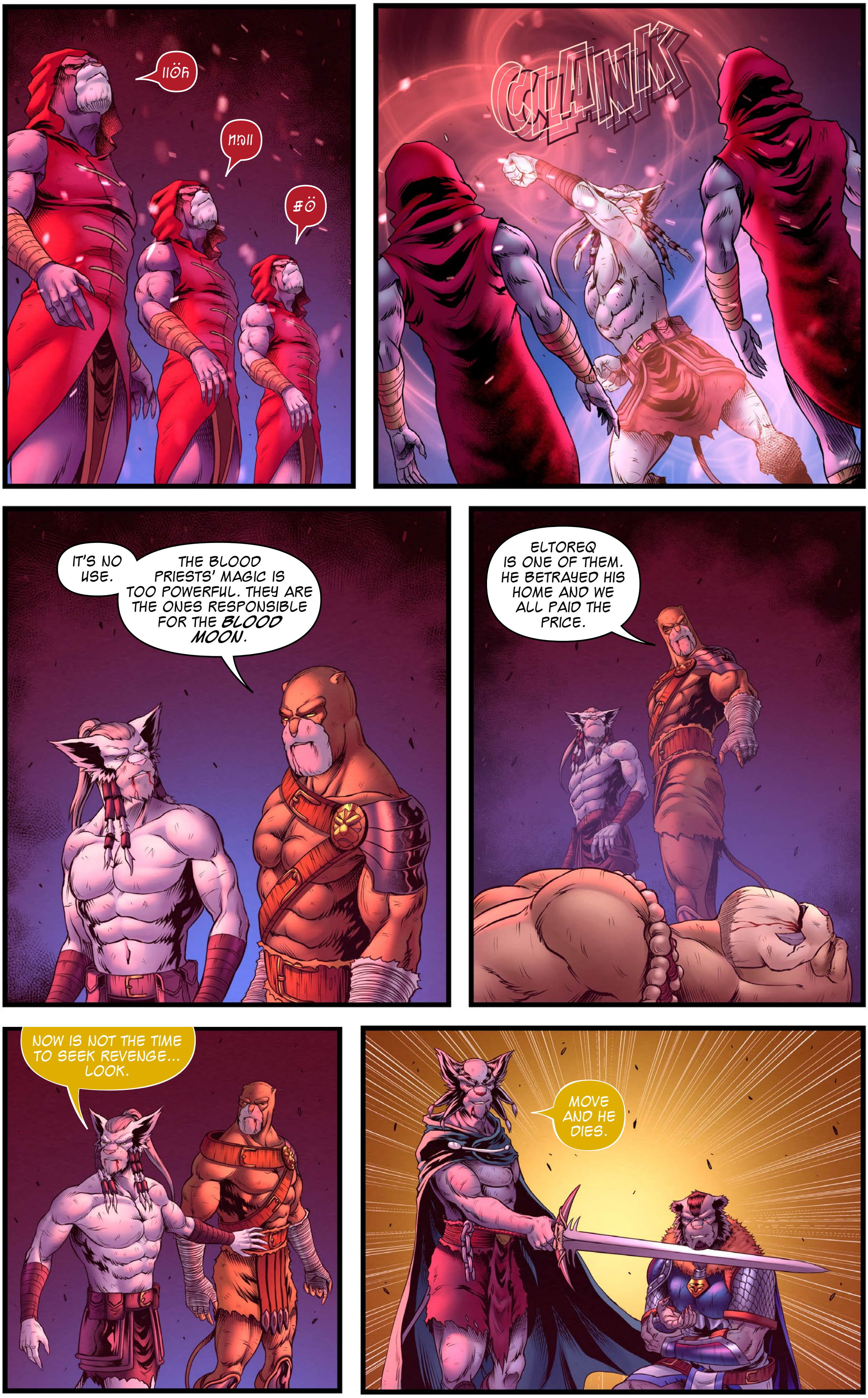

"IMPOSSIBLE--TWO MARKSSSS FROM THE SAME REGION?"
INDEED.
ARE YOU SAYING...
...ARTAIN...
...AND VALADAR ARE...
...BROTHERSSSS?!

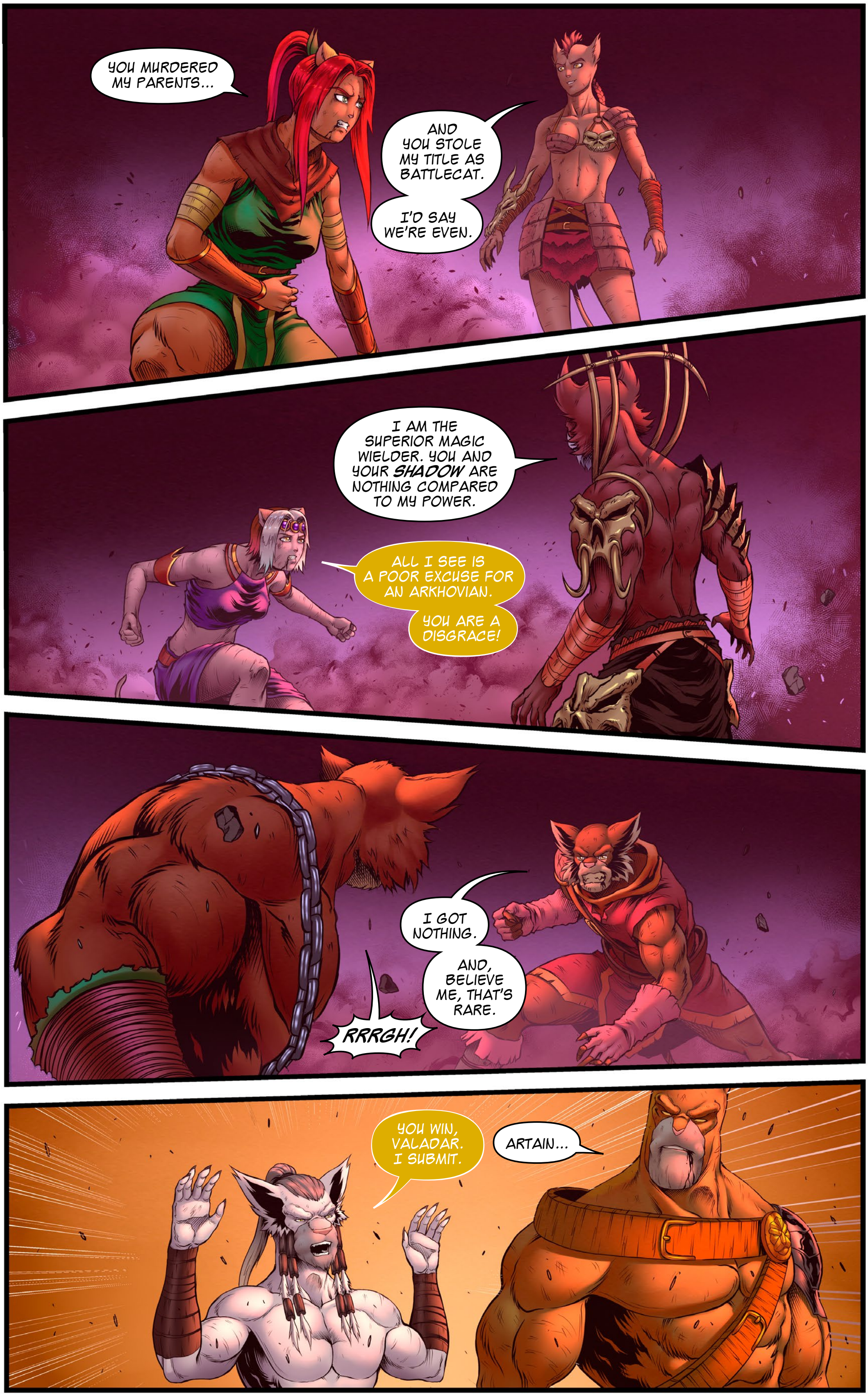

FOR
THE
KING!
YOU ARE STILL YOUNG, KELTHAN.
YOU STILL HAVE MUCH TO LEARN.
CRACK
AiiEEEEE!

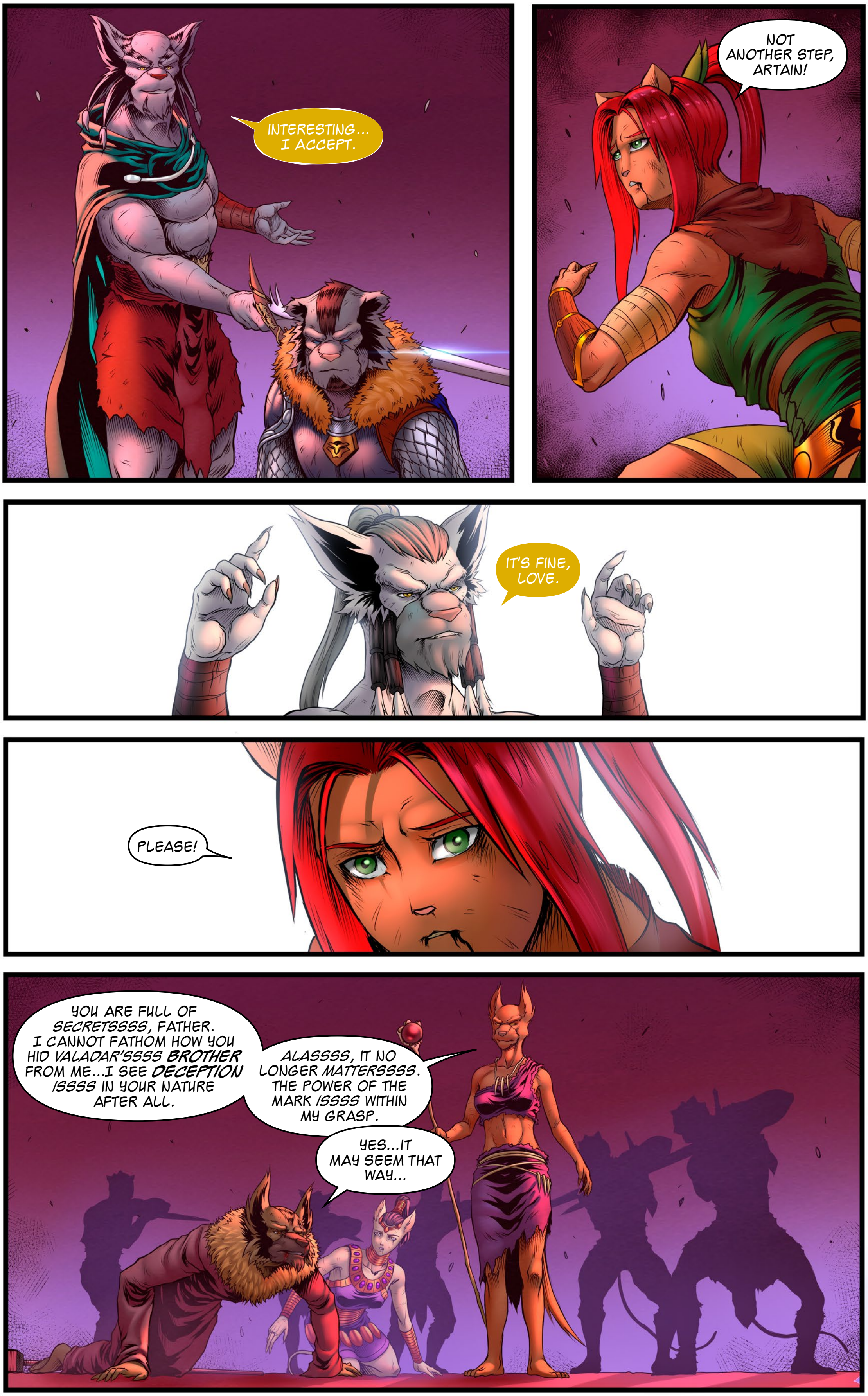

HAVE YOU HAD ENOUGH?
BATTLECATS NEVER RETREAT.
VALADAR!
VALDERIANS DON'T BOW TO BETRAYERS.
WHAT SHE SAID!
YOU HAVE TO LOVE THEIR COMMITMENT.
STAY DOWN!
OOOF!
I LIKE YOU BETTER BROKEN... LIKE A WOUNDED LITTLE BIRD.
HAHA HAHA!

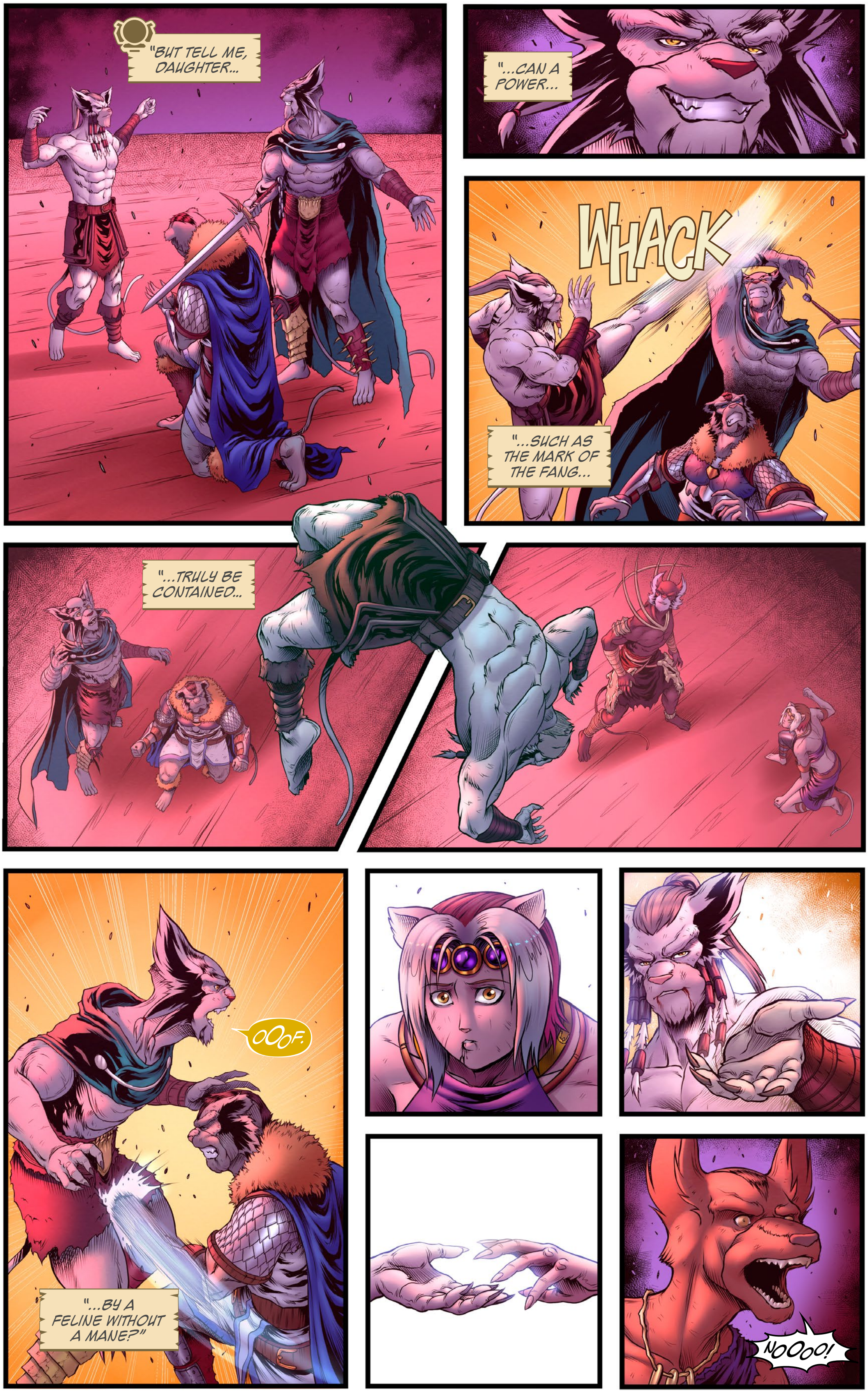

ACK--
THOOOM
BY BAU--
WHAT KIND OF
BLACKSTONIAN
ARE YOU?!
ARE YOU
GOING TO
FIGHT ME OR
EAT ME?
I CAN'T
TELL!
SMACK

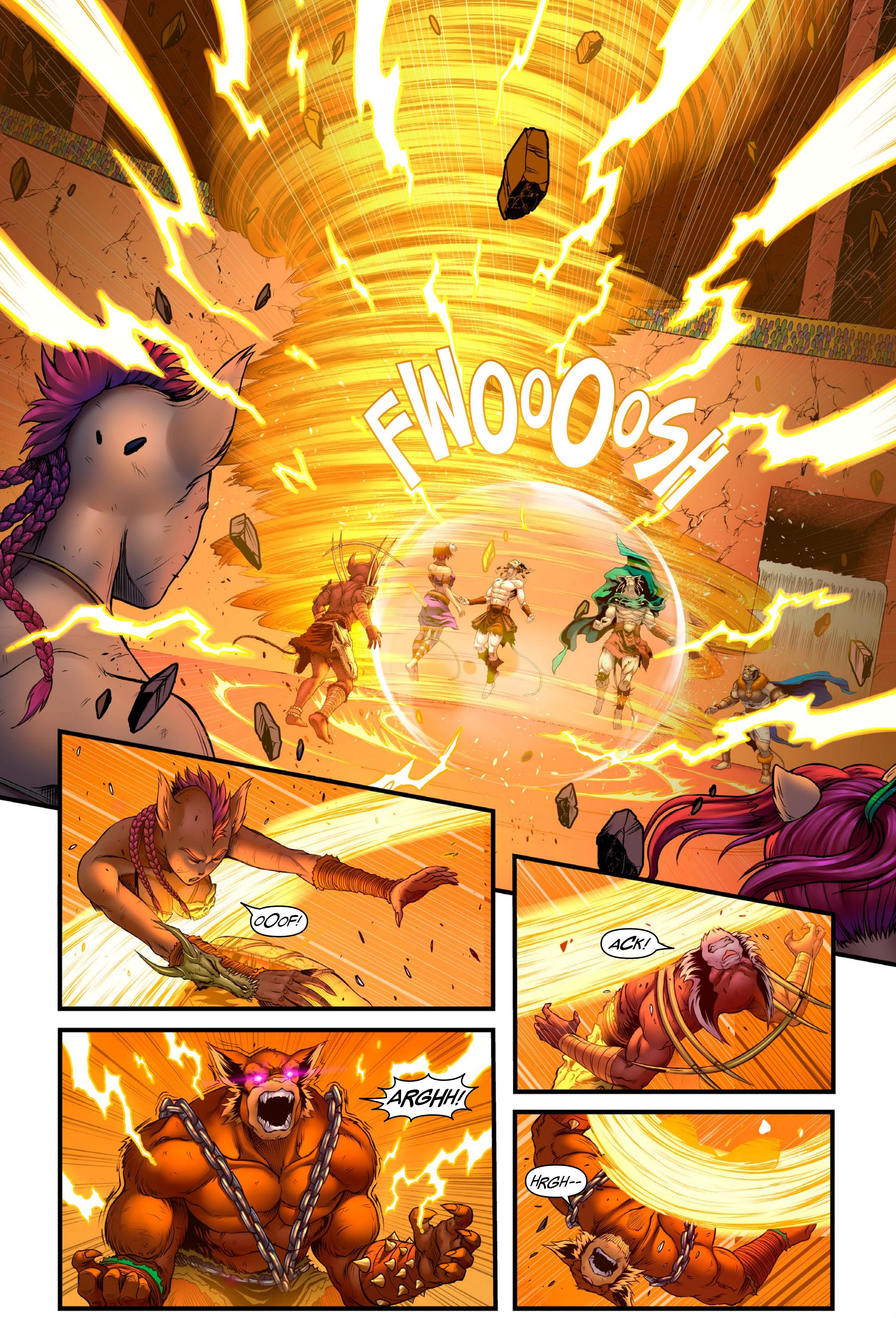

VALADAR, DON'T WORRY ABOUT THIS ONE!
I'VE GOT HIM!
TRAITOR...
...YOU OWE A DEBT TO DELLEA...
AND THAT DEBT WILL BE REPAID!
WHAAAM
KRAK
WOOOF--

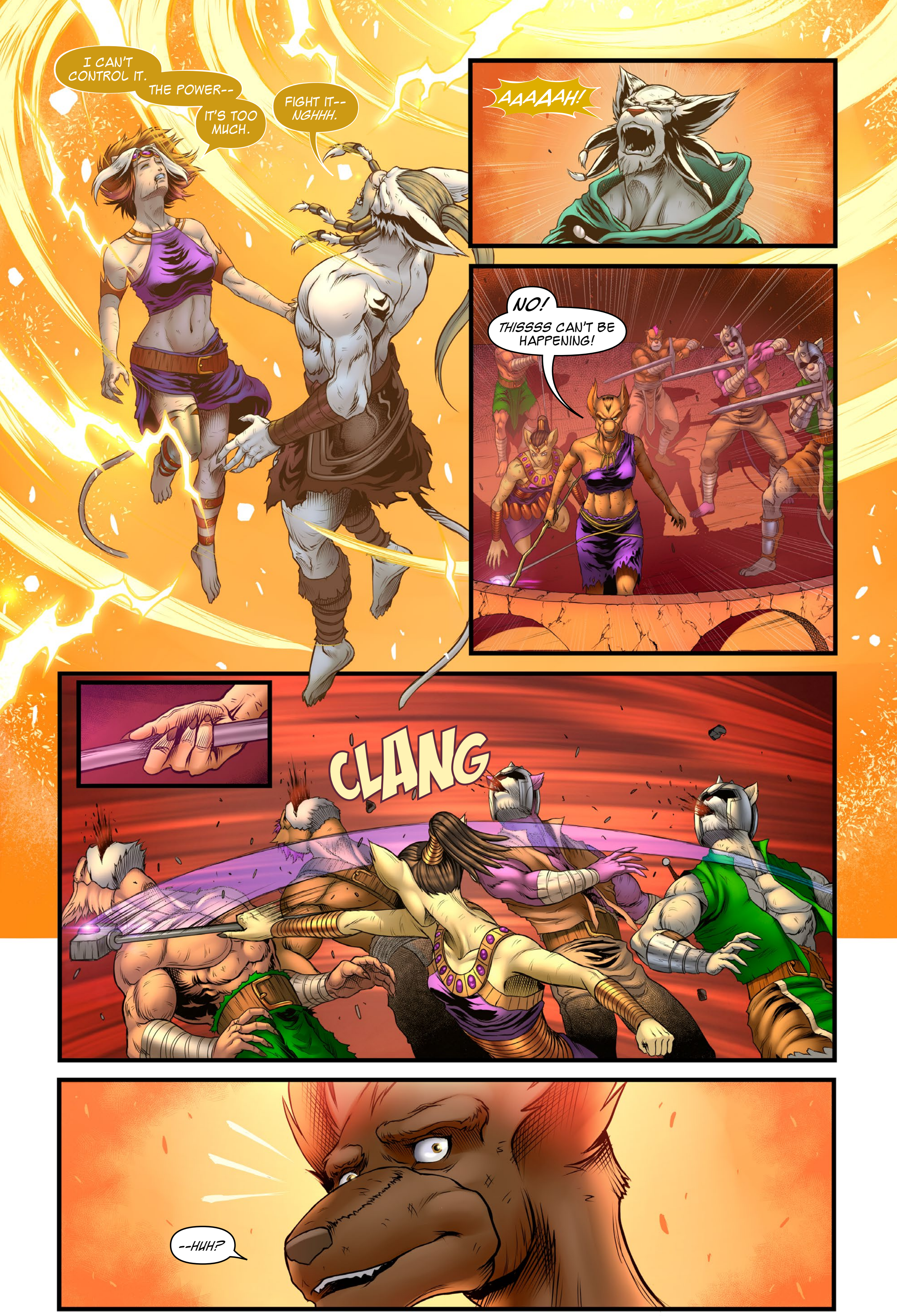

CLANK
IT'S NO USE.
THE BLOOD PRIESTS' MAGIC IS TOO POWERFUL. THEY ARE THE ONES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE *BLOOD MOON*.
ELTOREQ IS ONE OF THEM. HE BETRAYED HIS HOME AND WE ALL PAID THE PRICE.
NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO SEEK REVENGE... LOOK.
MOVE AND HE DIES.

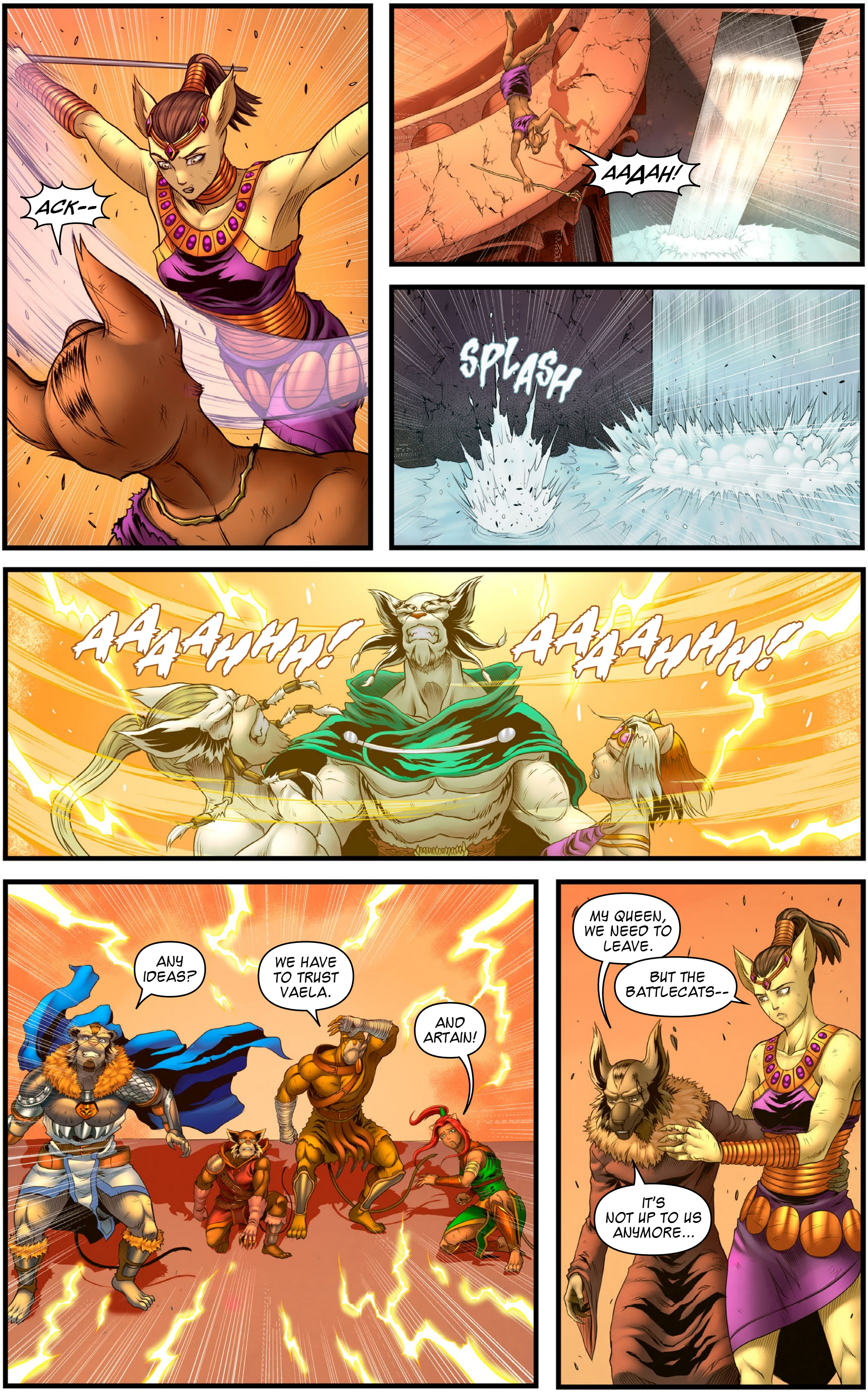

YOU MURDERED MY PARENTS...
AND YOU STOLE MY TITLE AS BATTLECAT.
I'D SAY WE'RE EVEN.
I AM THE SUPERIOR MAGIC WIELDER. YOU AND YOUR *SHADOW* ARE NOTHING COMPARED TO MY POWER.
ALL I SEE IS A POOR EXCUSE FOR AN ARKHOVIAN.
YOU ARE A DISGRACE!
I GOT NOTHING.
AND, BELIEVE ME, THAT'S RARE.
RRRGH!
YOU WIN, VALADAR. I SUBMIT.
ARTAIN...

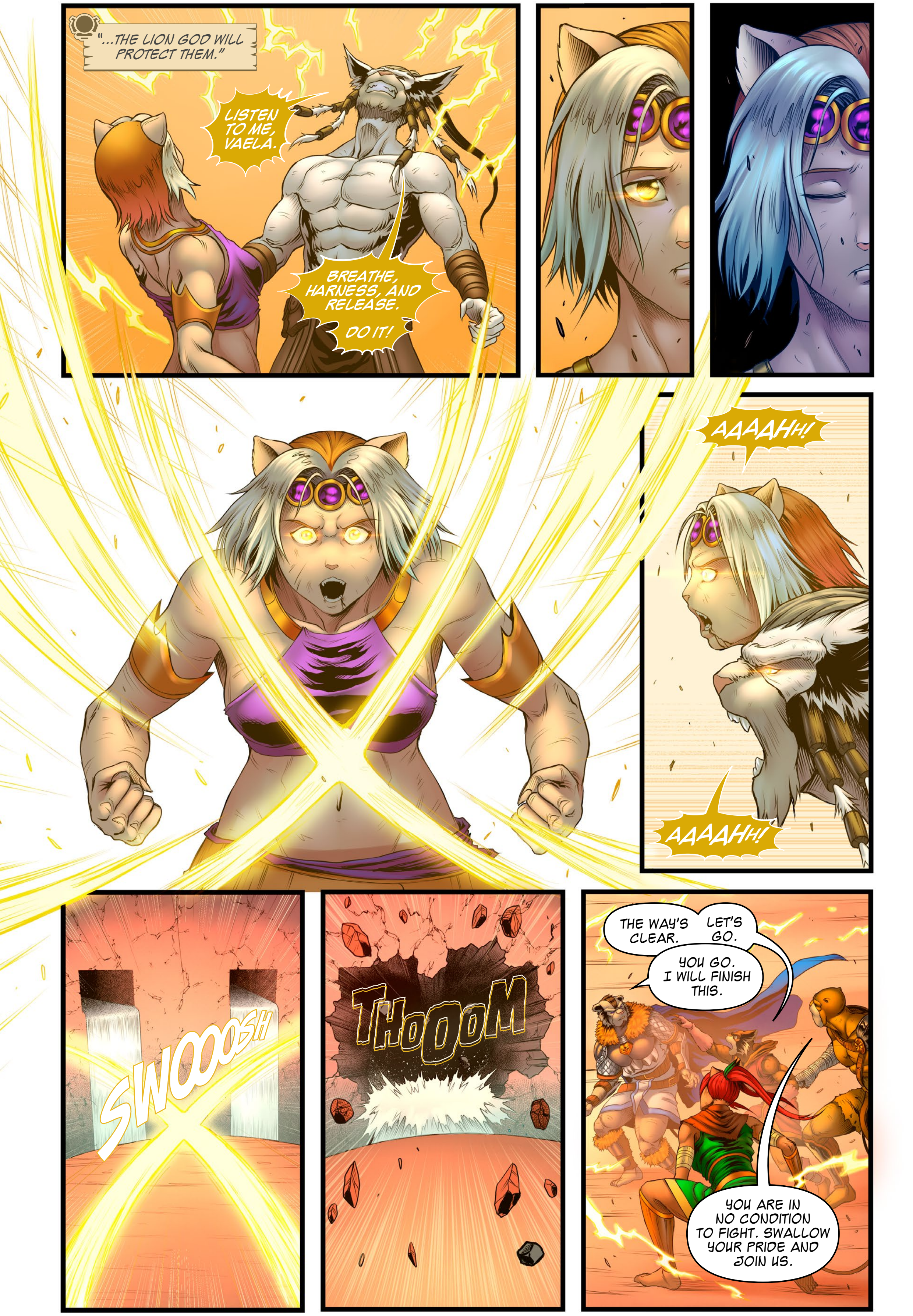

INTERESTING… I ACCEPT.
NOT ANOTHER STEP, ARTAIN!
IT'S FINE, LOVE.
PLEASE!
YOU ARE FULL OF *SECRETSSSS*, FATHER. I CANNOT FATHOM HOW YOU HID *VALADAR'SSSS* ***BROTHER*** FROM ME…I SEE ***DECEPTION*** *ISSSS* IN YOUR NATURE AFTER ALL.
ALASSSS, IT NO LONGER *MATTERSSSS*. THE POWER OF THE MARK *ISSSS* WITHIN MY GRASP.
YES…IT MAY SEEM THAT WAY…

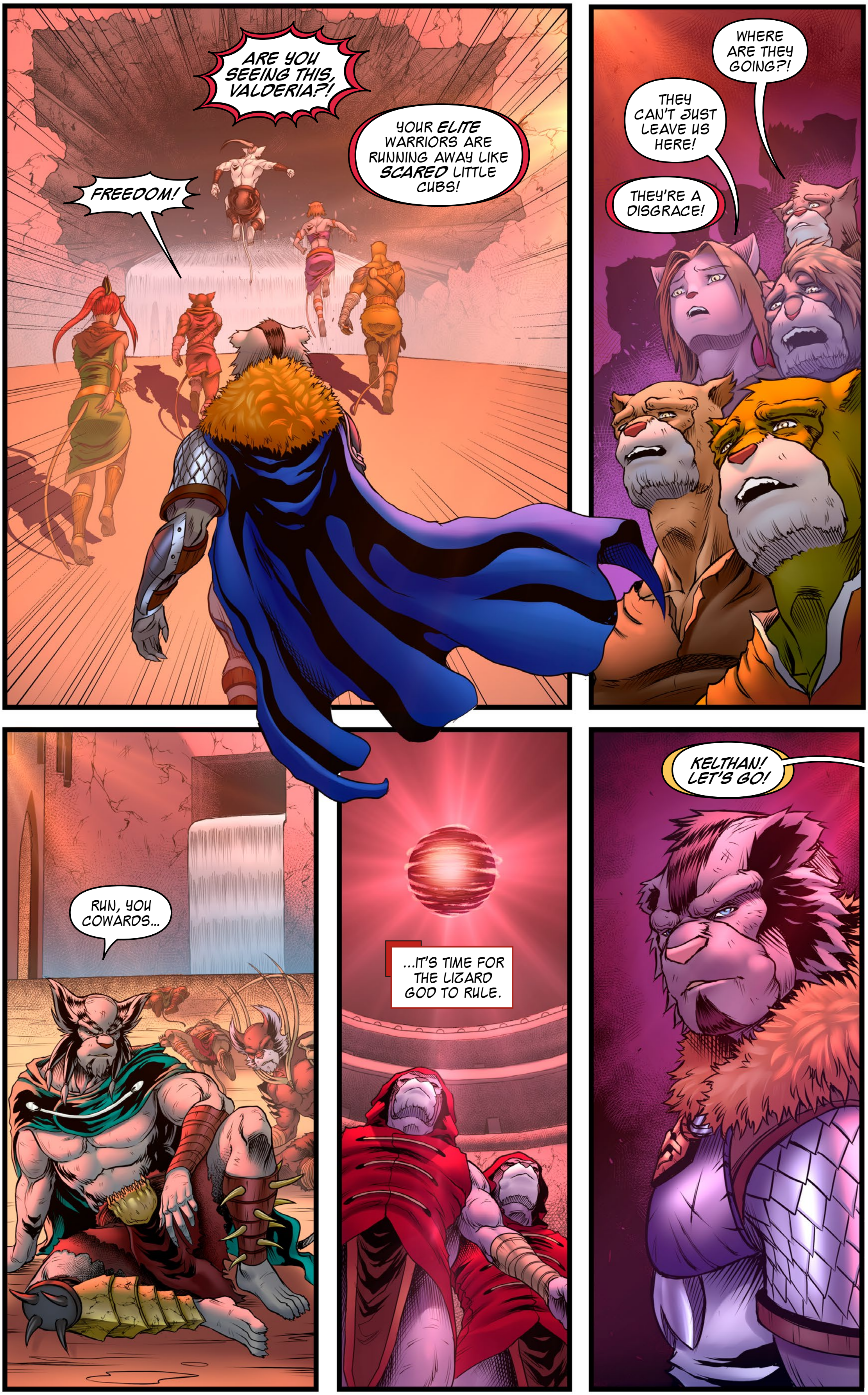

"BUT TELL ME, DAUGHTER...
"...CAN A POWER...
WHACK
"...SUCH AS THE MARK OF THE FANG...
"...TRULY BE CONTAINED...
OOOF.
"...BY A FELINE WITHOUT A MANE?"
NOOOO!

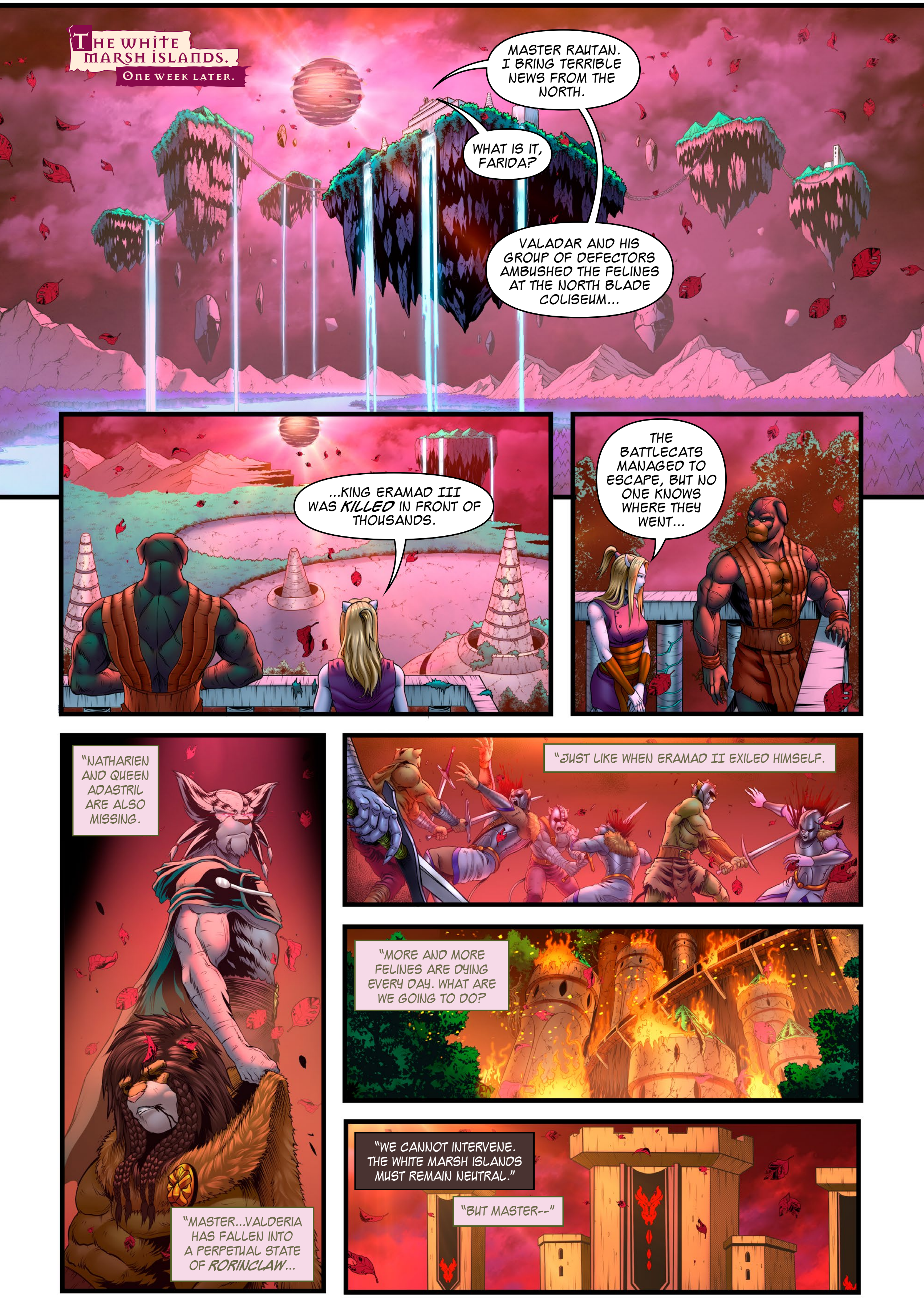

FWOOOOSH
OOOF!
ACK!
ARGHH!
HRGH--

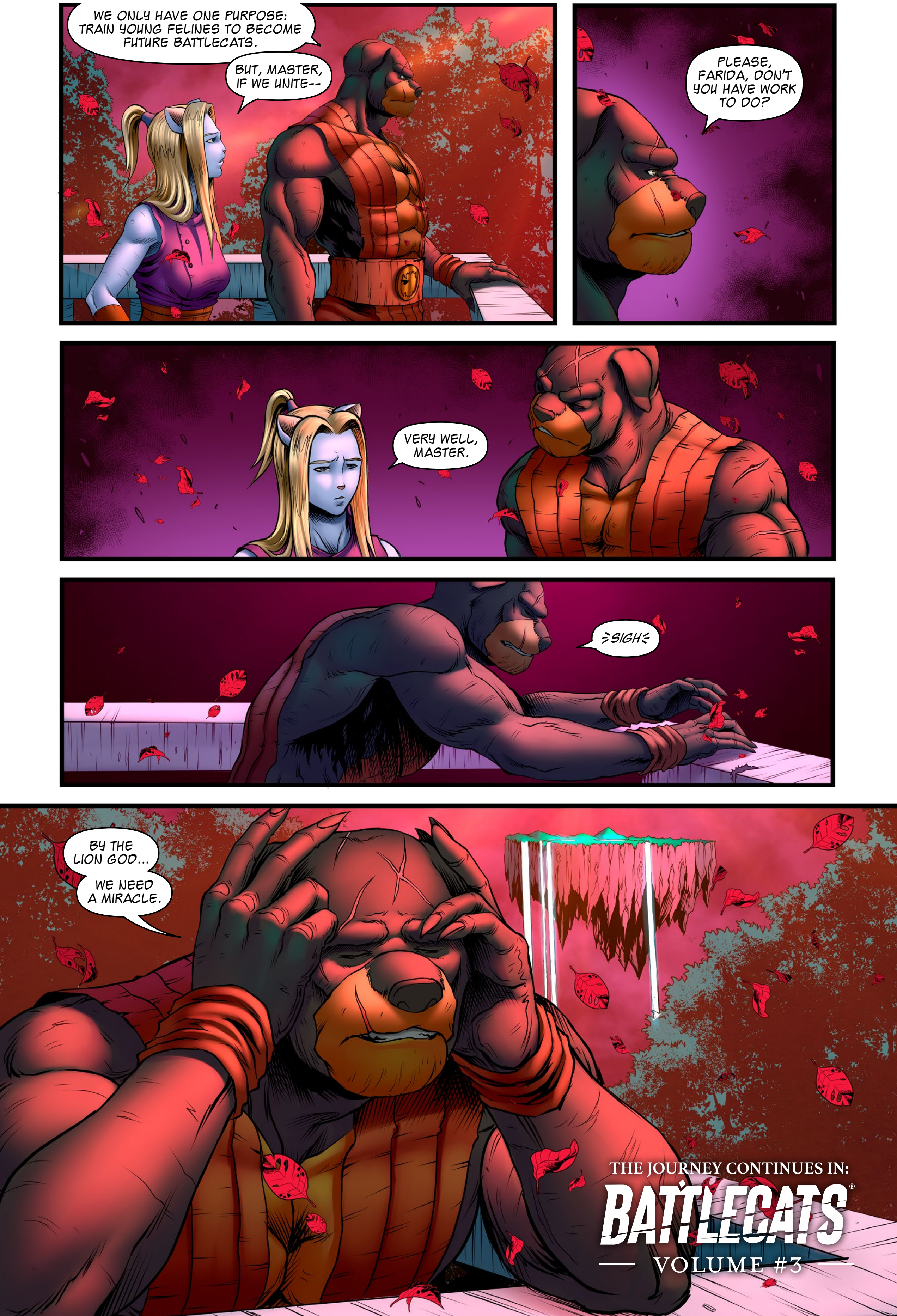

I CAN'T CONTROL IT.
THE POWER--
IT'S TOO MUCH.
FIGHT IT-- NGHHH.
AAAAAH!
NO! THISSSS CAN'T BE HAPPENING!
CLANG
--HUH?


ACK--
AAAAH!
SPLASH
AAAAHHHH!
AAAAHHHH!
ANY IDEAS?
WE HAVE TO TRUST VAELA.
AND ARTAIN!
MY QUEEN, WE NEED TO LEAVE.
BUT THE BATTLECATS--
IT'S NOT UP TO US ANYMORE...


"...THE LION GOD WILL PROTECT THEM."
LISTEN TO ME, VAELA.
BREATHE, HARNESS, AND RELEASE.
DO IT!
AAAAHH!
AAAAHH!
SWOOOSH
THOOOM
THE WAY'S CLEAR.
LET'S GO.
YOU GO. I WILL FINISH THIS.
YOU ARE IN NO CONDITION TO FIGHT. SWALLOW YOUR PRIDE AND JOIN US.

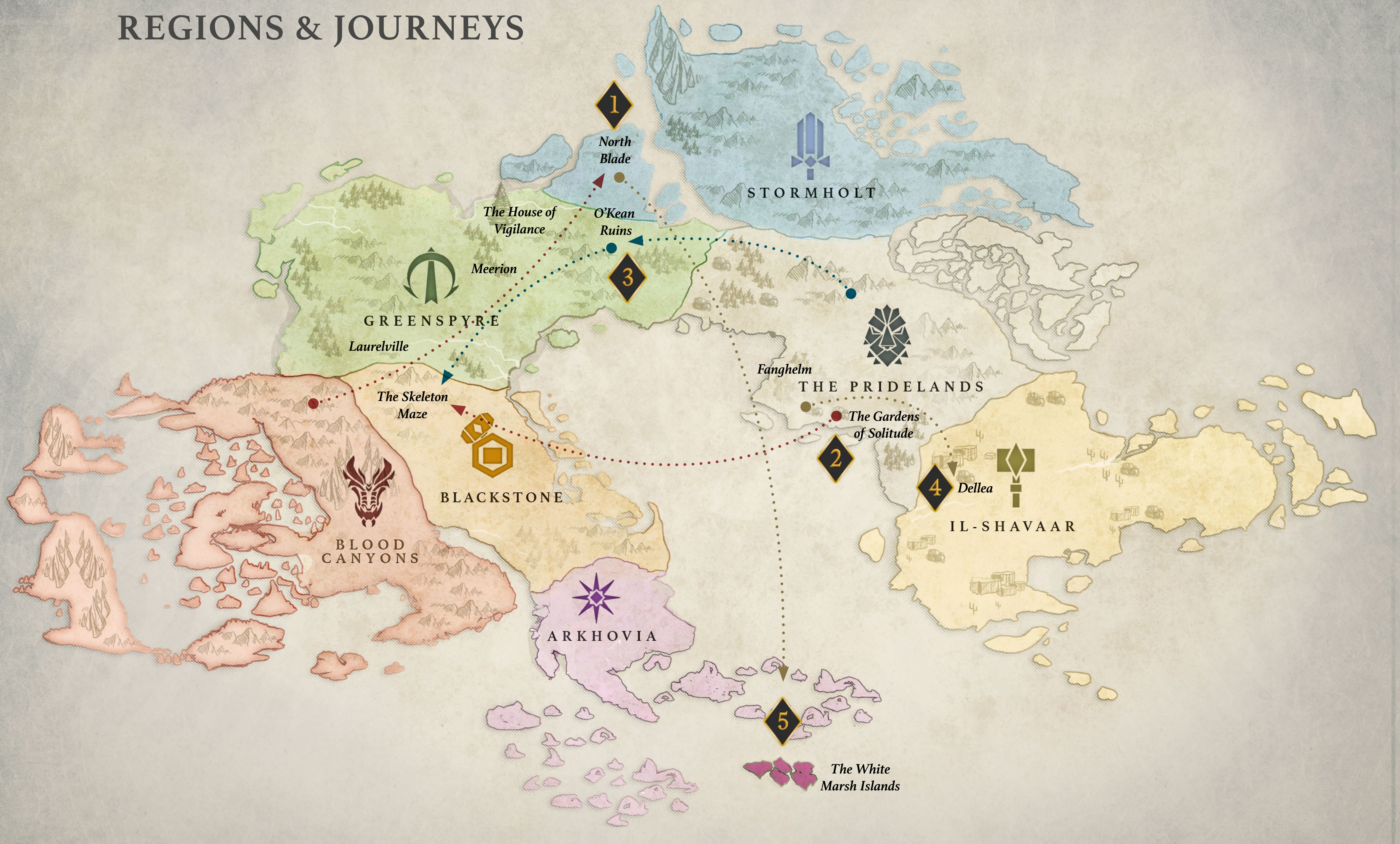

ARE YOU SEEING THIS, VALDERIA?!
YOUR *ELITE* WARRIORS ARE RUNNING AWAY LIKE *SCARED* LITTLE CUBS!
FREEDOM!
WHERE ARE THEY GOING?!
THEY CAN'T JUST LEAVE US HERE!
THEY'RE A DISGRACE!
RUN, YOU COWARDS...
...IT'S TIME FOR THE LIZARD GOD TO RULE.
KELTHAN! LET'S GO!


THE WHITE MARSH ISLANDS.
ONE WEEK LATER.
MASTER RAUTAN. I BRING TERRIBLE NEWS FROM THE NORTH.
WHAT IS IT, FARIDA?
VALADAR AND HIS GROUP OF DEFECTORS AMBUSHED THE FELINES AT THE NORTH BLADE COLISEUM...
...KING ERAMAD III WAS *KILLED* IN FRONT OF THOUSANDS.
THE BATTLECATS MANAGED TO ESCAPE, BUT NO ONE KNOWS WHERE THEY WENT...
"NATHARIEN AND QUEEN ADASTRIL ARE ALSO MISSING.
"MASTER...VALDERIA HAS FALLEN INTO A PERPETUAL STATE OF *RORINCLAW*...
"JUST LIKE WHEN ERAMAD II EXILED HIMSELF.
"MORE AND MORE FELINES ARE DYING EVERY DAY. WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
"WE CANNOT INTERVENE. THE WHITE MARSH ISLANDS MUST REMAIN NEUTRAL."
"BUT MASTER--"


WE ONLY HAVE ONE PURPOSE: TRAIN YOUNG FELINES TO BECOME FUTURE BATTLECATS.
BUT, MASTER, IF WE UNITE--
PLEASE, FARIDA, DON'T YOU HAVE WORK TO DO?
VERY WELL, MASTER.
>SIGH<
BY THE LION GOD...
WE NEED A MIRACLE.

THE JOURNEY CONTINUES IN:
BATTLECATS®
VOLUME #3

VALDERIA:
REGIONS & JOURNEYS


1
North Blade
STORMHOLT
The House of Vigilance
O'Kean Ruins
Meerion
3
GREENSPYRE
Laurelville
Fanghelm
THE PRIDELANDS
The Skeleton Maze
The Gardens of Solitude
2
BLACKSTONE
4
Dellea
IL-SHAVAAR
BLOOD CANYONS
ARKHOVIA
5
The White Marsh Islands

1 Valadar's march from the Blood Canyons through Greenspyre and into North Blade for the start of Rorinhal

2 Vaela's capture from the Gardens of Solitude and subsequent arrival at the Skeleton Maze

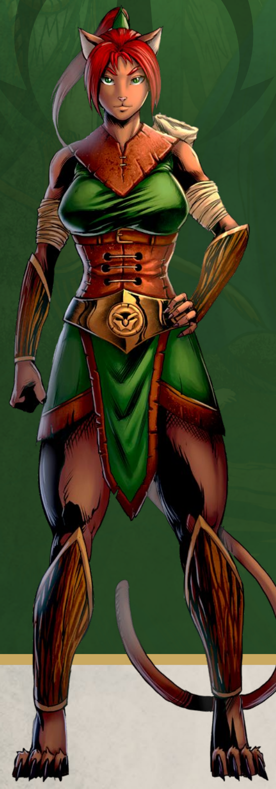
3 The Battlecats' journey to the O'Kean Ruins and their eventual rescue of Vaela from the Skeleton Maze

4 Eramad's ride to protect the city of Dellea from Umbra Raiders

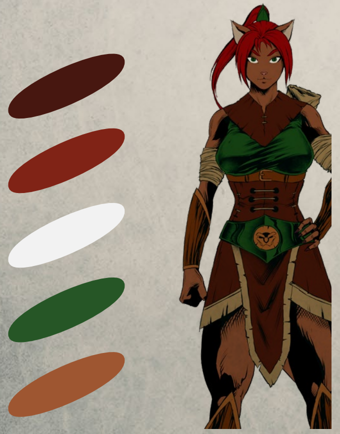
5 Word of King Eramad III's death arriving at the White Marsh Islands

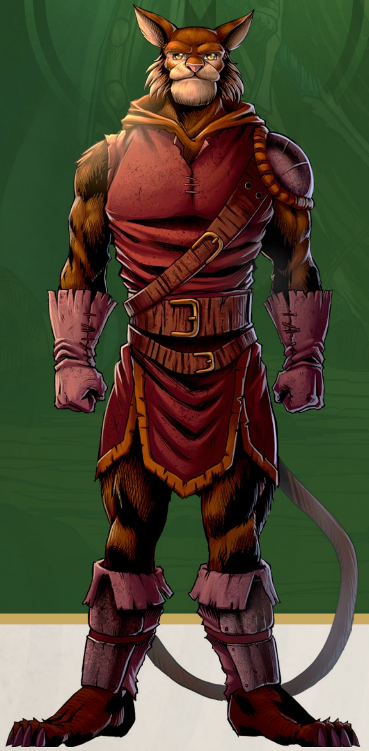
BATTLECATS

Concept Art

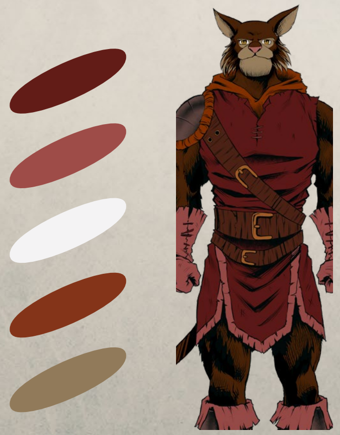


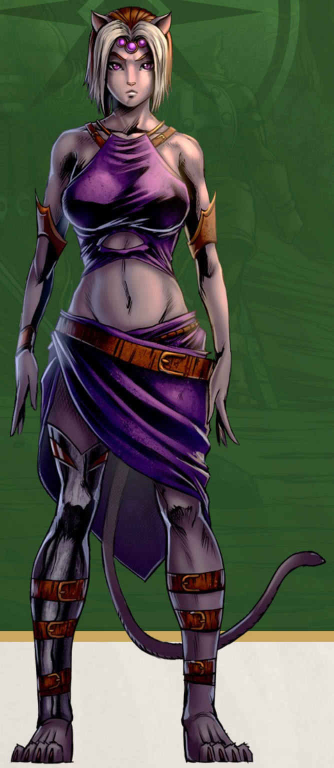
Kaleera



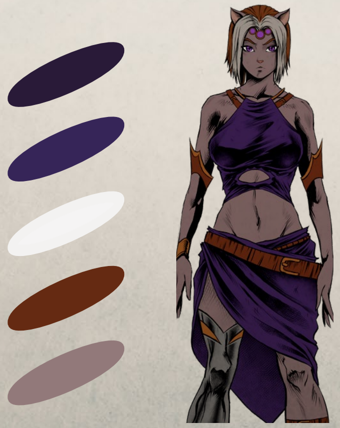


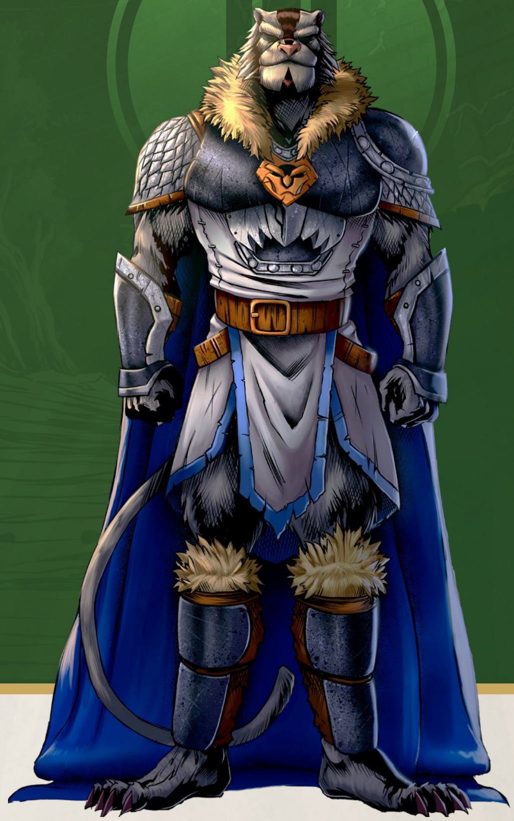
Mekkar



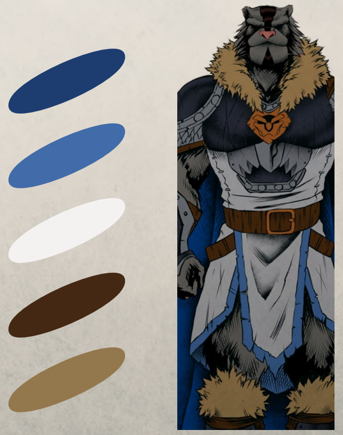


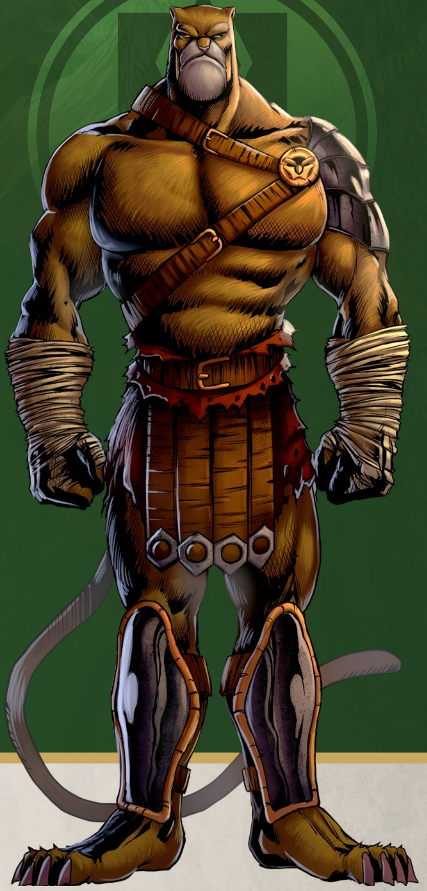
Vaela





Kelthan





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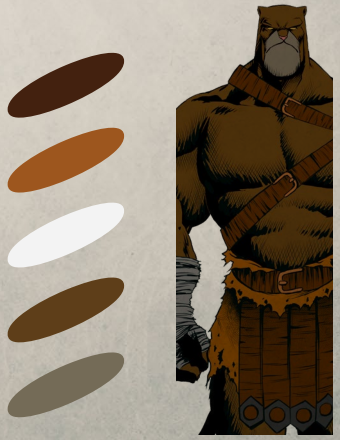
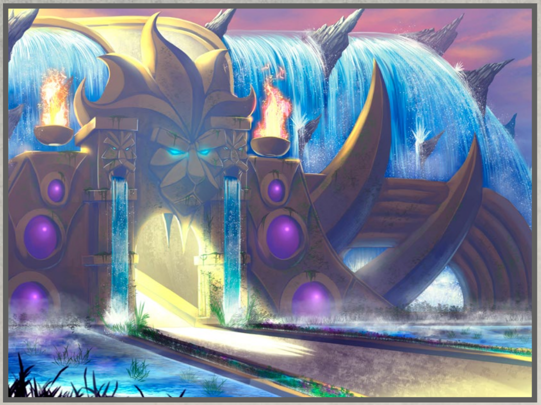
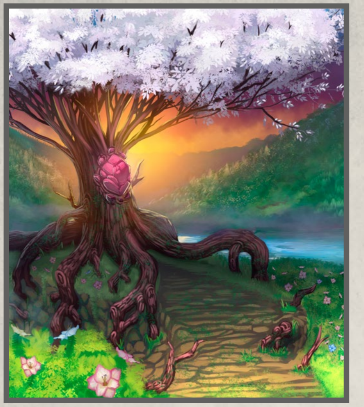
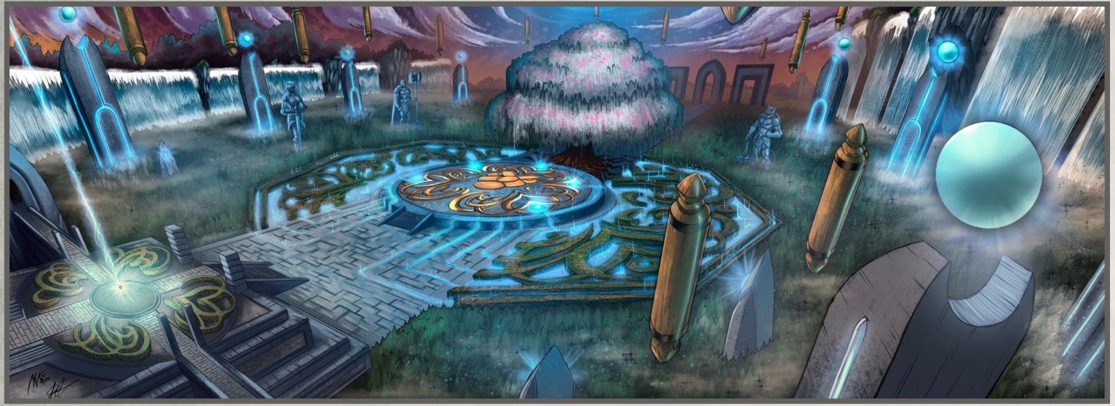


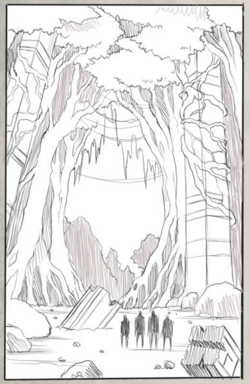
The Gardens of Solitude

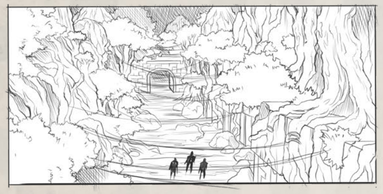


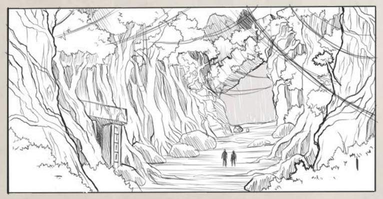


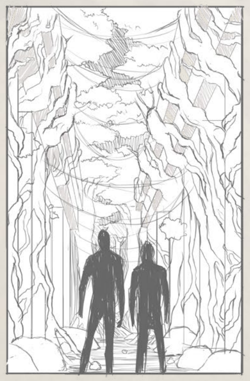


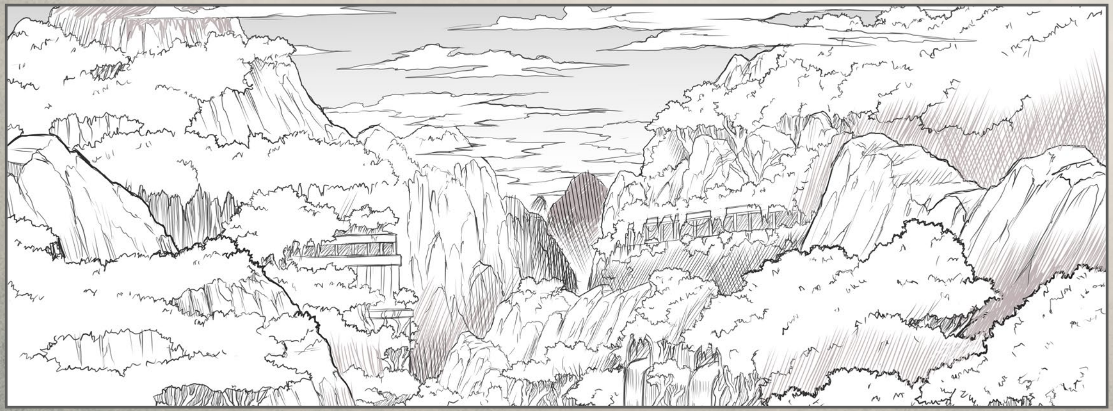
O'Kean Ruins



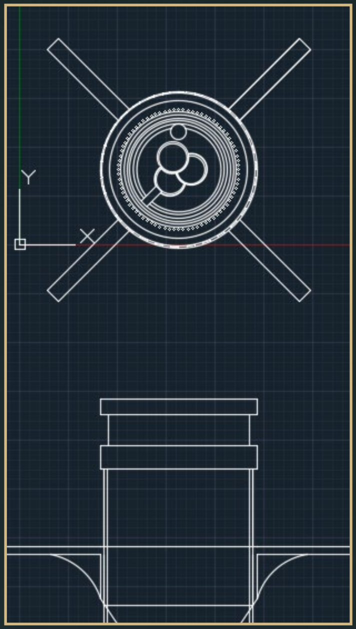


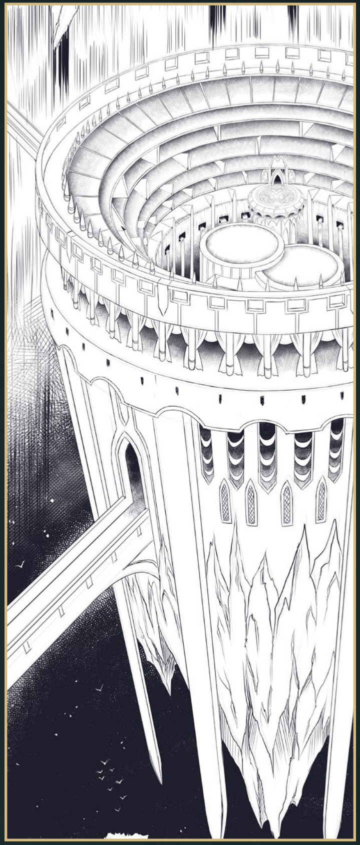


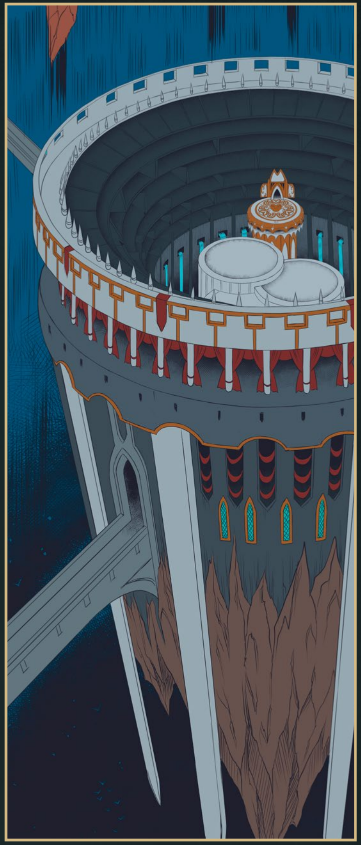


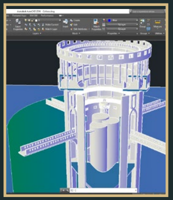


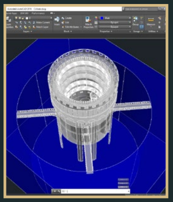
North Blade Coliseum

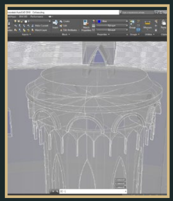


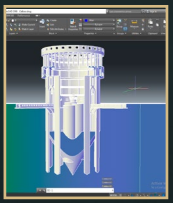


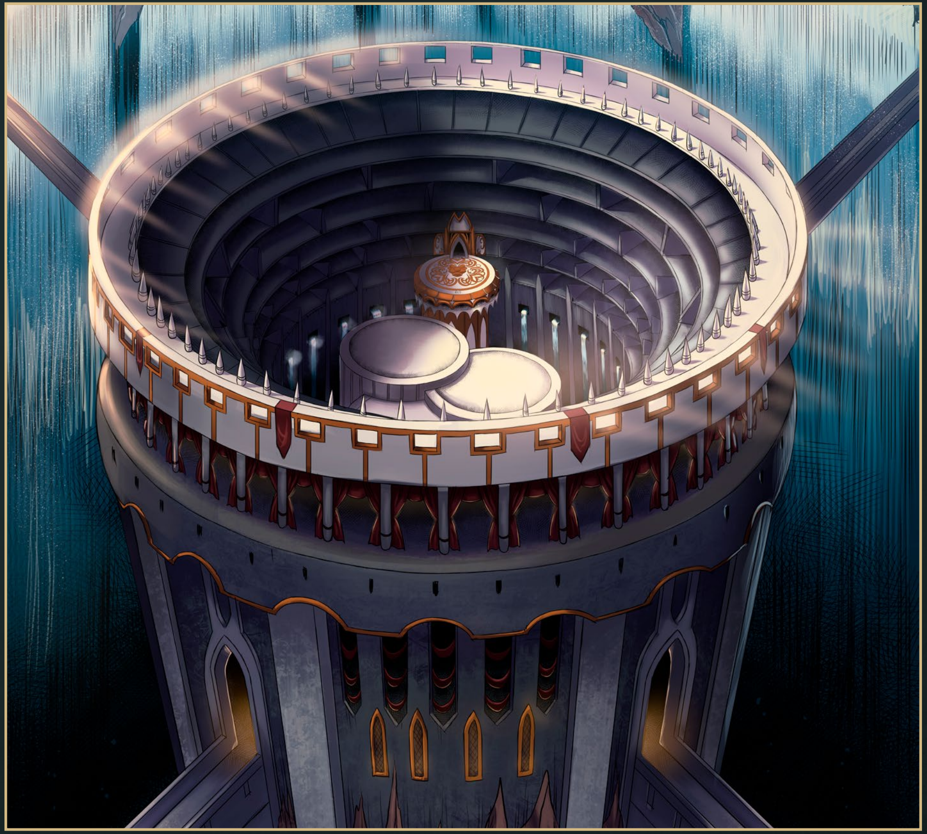


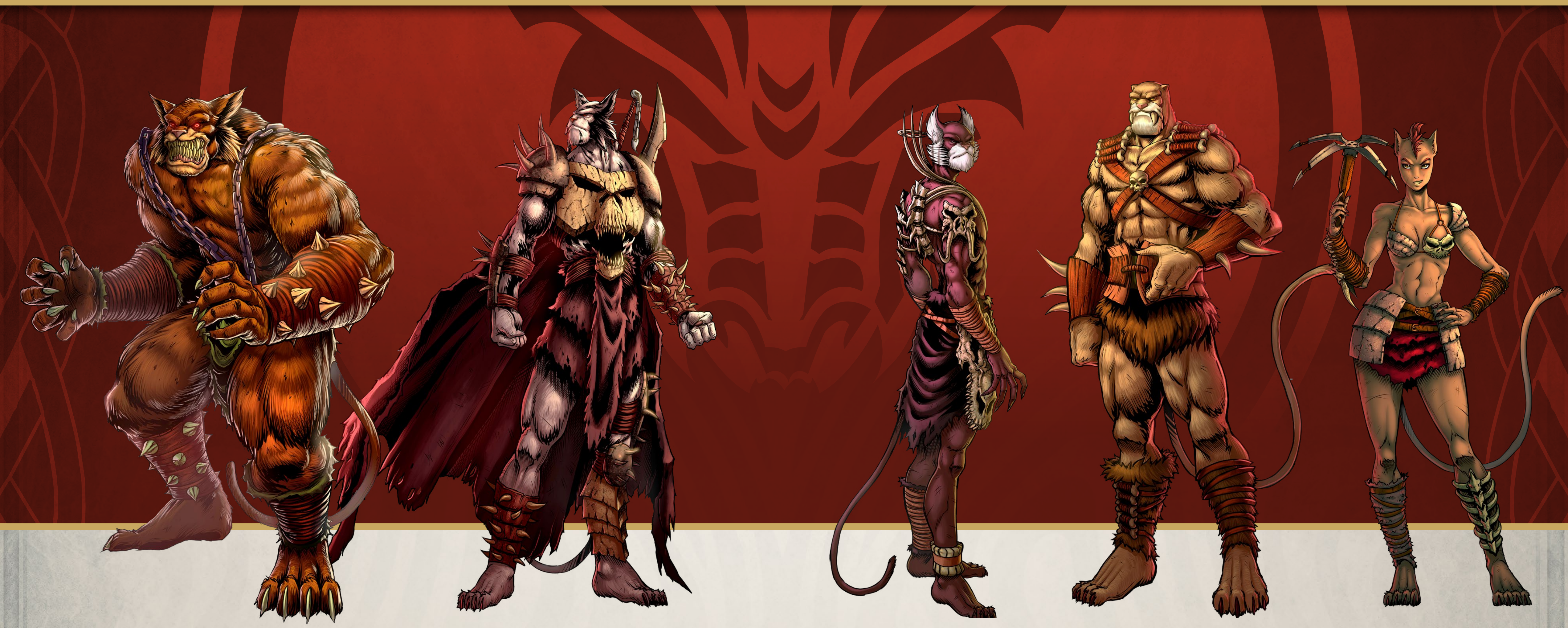












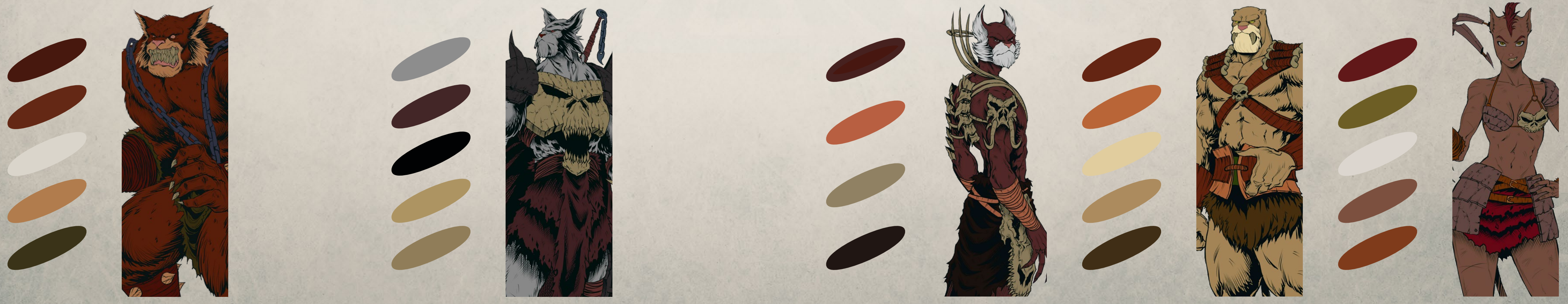
Birch

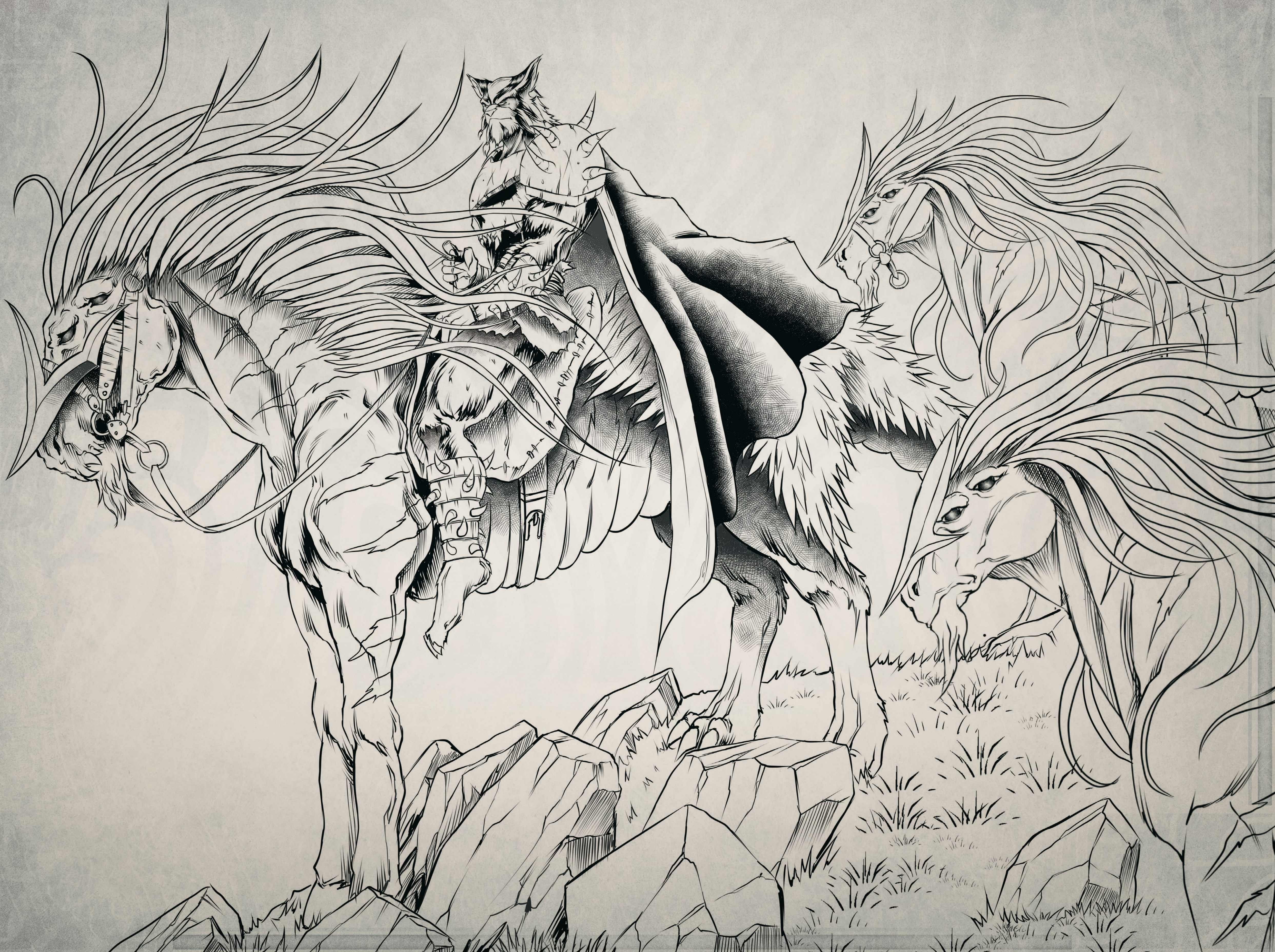
Valadar

Jarnoch

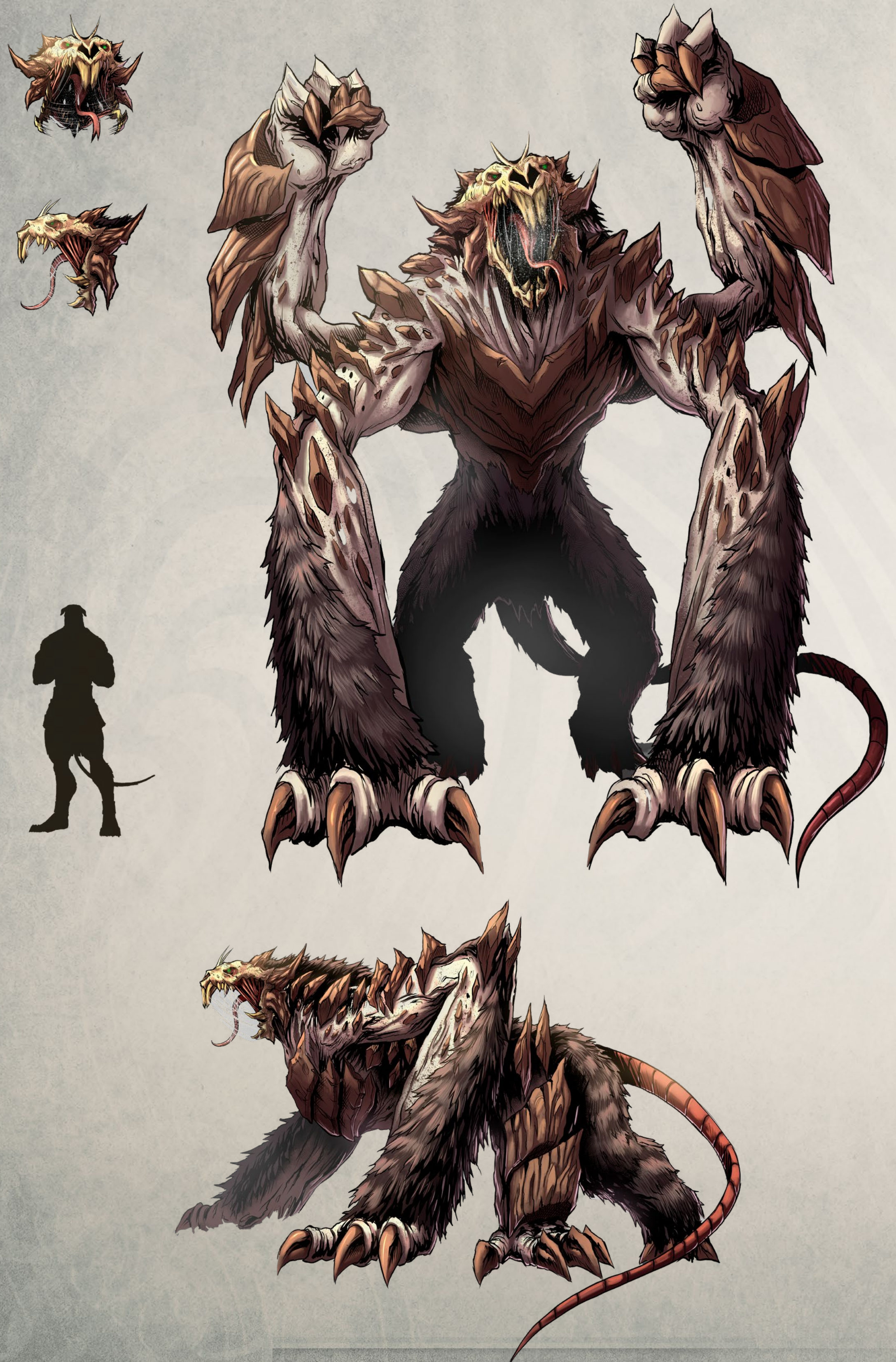
Eltoreq

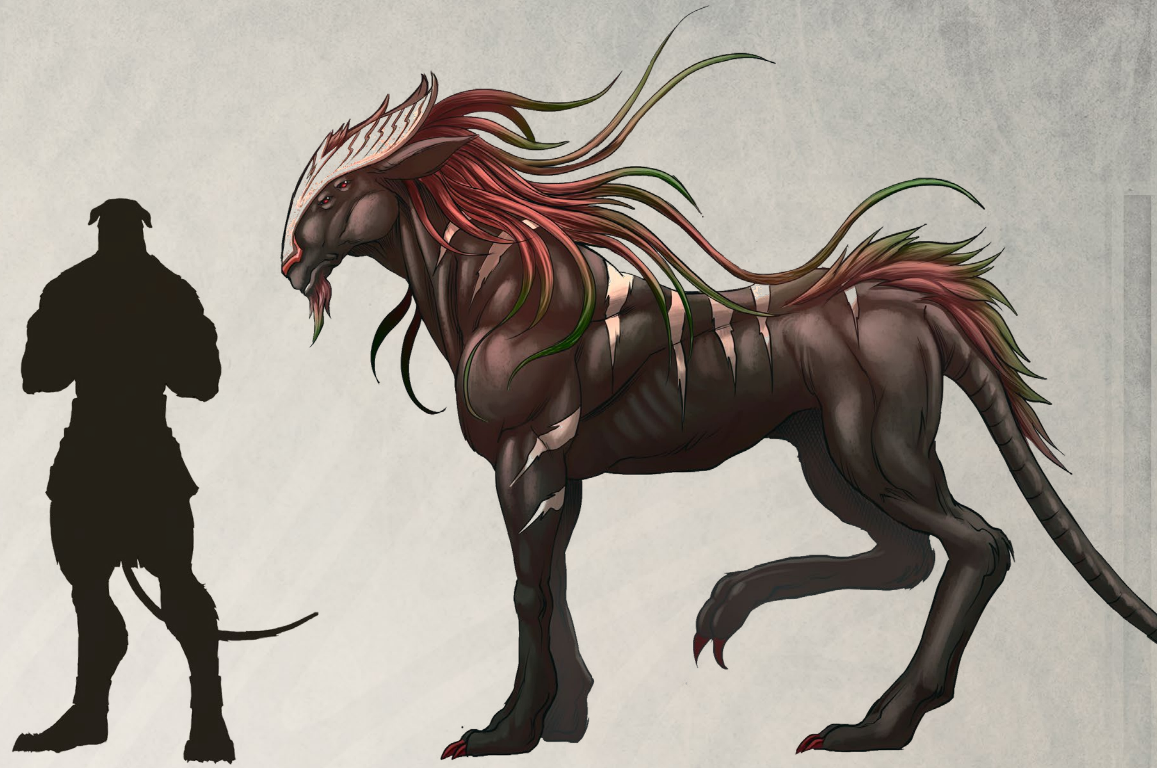
Gheeta

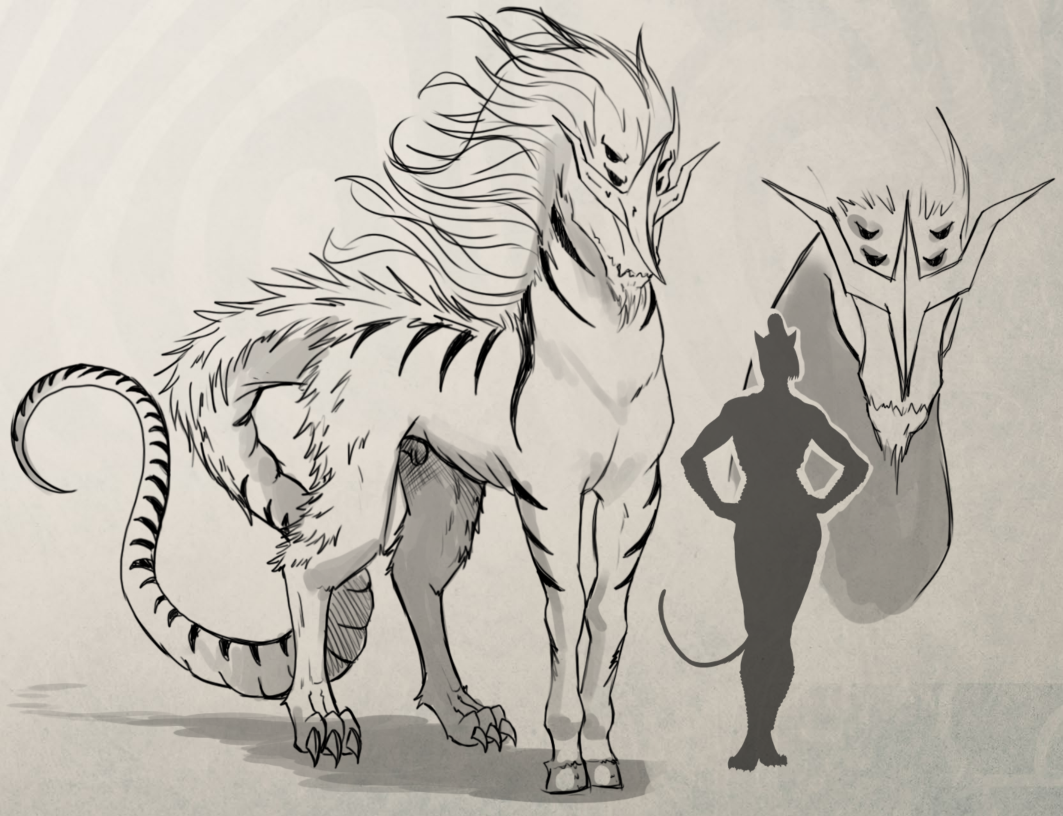


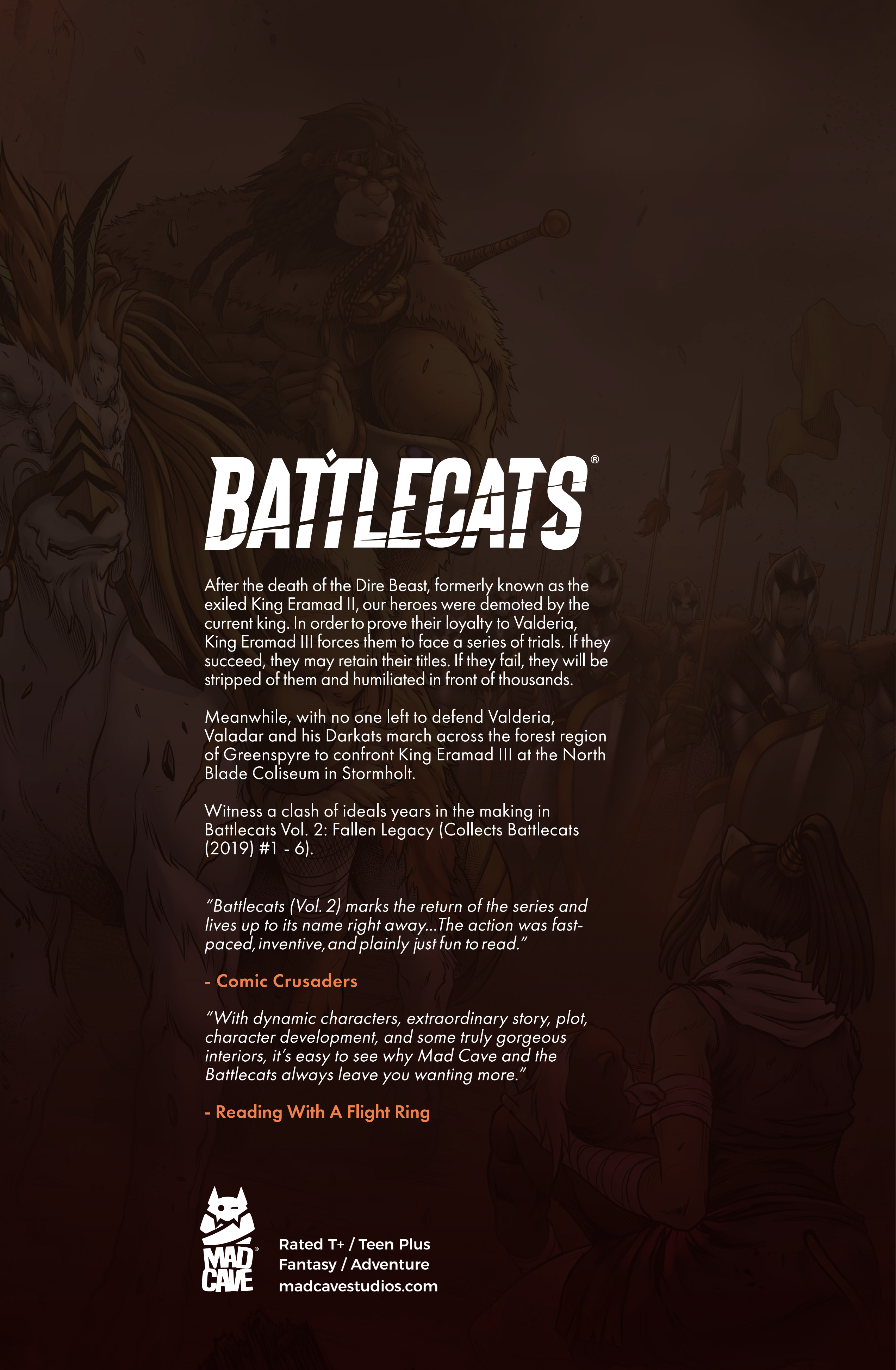


CREATURES OF VALDERIA









BATTLECATS®

After the death of the Dire Beast, formerly known as the exiled King Eramad II, our heroes were demoted by the current king. In order to prove their loyalty to Valderia, King Eramad III forces them to face a series of trials. If they succeed, they may retain their titles. If they fail, they will be stripped of them and humiliated in front of thousands.

Meanwhile, with no one left to defend Valderia, Valadar and his Darkats march across the forest region of Greenspyre to confront King Eramad III at the North Blade Coliseum in Stormholt.

Witness a clash of ideals years in the making in Battlecats Vol. 2: Fallen Legacy (Collects Battlecats (2019) #1 - 6).

"Battlecats (Vol. 2) marks the return of the series and lives up to its name right away...The action was fast-paced, inventive, and plainly just fun to read."

- Comic Crusaders

"With dynamic characters, extraordinary story, plot, character development, and some truly gorgeous interiors, it's easy to see why Mad Cave and the Battlecats always leave you wanting more."

- Reading With A Flight Ring

Rated T+ / Teen Plus
Fantasy / Adventure
madcavestudios.com